

# THE ZOIST.

No. XLVI.

---

JULY, 1854.

---

- I. *An account of the perfectly painless and successful removal of a female breast in Mesmeric Sleep-waking at the London Mesmeric Infirmary by W. J. Tubbs, Esq., of Upwell, on April 26, 1854: with accounts of other instances of the same fact, and a list of operations performed equally without pain through the innocent and gentle agency of Mesmerism. By Dr. ELLIOTSON.*

"I desire to record my testimony against the so-called *Mesmeric Hospital*, considering the same likely to be productive of much mischief in its locality."

"The Cansanites of old filled up the cup of their iniquity by having dealings with Satan and evil spirits."

"Satan is now coming in like a flood with all these his old works of power, either personally by his spirit or by his spirits under a new nomenclature, viz., *mesmerism*, *biology*, *clairvoyance*, consulting with spirits of the departed, &c."

"The old works of Satan in power are now performed" (*painless removals of female breasts!*) "under these new names by the various persons who are in our day arranged under the general term '*Media*,'" (*good Mr. Tubbs little thinks he is a Medium!*) "which term seems to comprehend *mesmerists*, *biologists*, &c., as well as consultants with the spirits of friends and distinguished persons departed."

"In this country, and in all Europe, all these workings of evil power are done under the title of '*science*,' '*falsely so called*;' but in America, where the ordinances of God are less respected, some of them, if not all, are done directly, openly, and confessedly by spirits without the guise of science to cover their works."

"It is very clear that the nations of Christendom are filling up the cup of their iniquity, and, like the Cansanites of old, are rapidly preparing themselves for the judgment of God by the sword."

"This brief statement will tend to shew you that I am very averse to the establishment of any hospital where these abominations are practised under the guise of science, and shall always raise my voice against the evil spiritual works that are therein done, by whatever name designated. June 13, 1853."—*Protest of an Irvingite Surgeon against allowing the beneficent Mesmeric Infirmary to remain in Fitzroy Square (see Zoist, No. XLV., pp. 33, 34).*

On the 25th of last April, a most respectable married woman, the mother of four little children, named Flowerday, a pa-

tient of Mr. Tubbs, of Upwell, Cambridgeshire, arrived with her husband from that village at the Mesmeric Infirmary, No. 36, Weymouth Street, Portland Place. The following morning Mr. Tubbs arrived, accompanied by a surgical friend, Mr. Burman of Wisbeach.

Mr. Tubbs had previously written to say that he was about to remove the diseased breast of one of his female patients in the mesmeric state of insensibility to pain, and that, if the Committee of the Mesmeric Infirmary were agreeable to his doing it within the walls of the Institution, he would be happy to send her up and perform the operation in their presence.

One of the rules of the Infirmary is, "that the medical officers of the Institution shall be unlimited in number: and that all regularly licensed medical gentlemen, being governors of this Institution, may be appointed medical officers of the Infirmary by the Committee, and, as such, may attend at the Infirmary, during the hours of business fixed by the Committee, to mesmerise any patients recommended by themselves or by another governor, who may express a wish in writing to the Committee that such patient shall be under the care of that particular medical officer."

Accordingly Mr. Tubbs's courageous offer was accepted, and on this occasion a bed-room occupied by one of the Secretary's family was kindly given up by him for the reception of Mr. and Mrs. Flowerday, though the charity is not rich enough to receive in-patients.

Mr. Flowerday is a gardener, and Mrs. Flowerday is 30 years of age, has been married nine years, and is the mother of four children, the youngest three years old. Since the birth of the youngest she has been subject to ague, which prevails at Upwell, and to periodical menorrhagia, usually lasting ten days. She has also been subject to severe colds with cough and a degree of asthma. The affection of the breast was first noticed by her two years ago: but she had not consulted Mr. Tubbs for it more than a month.

Ever since these periodical losses began, she had been subject to attacks of severe fainting.

Mr. Tubbs, as soon as he examined the breast, condemned it to removal, and began mesmerising her: and at the first attempt he induced sleep-waking and insensibility to pain in forty minutes. He continued to mesmerise her daily, indeed often twice a day, for an hour or more, till she left home; allowing her to be altogether from one to three hours in the sleep-waking every time. He soon found her quite fit for the operation, but various little circumstances

in London caused us to defer the visit of Mr. Tubbs and his patient to us for a while.

On the 26th of April, everything was prepared for the operation at the Infirmary, in the room at the left-hand side on the first floor, in which the female patients are mesmerised. The instruments, bandages, &c., were placed in the back part of the room, upon a table behind one of the two folding doors—the door which was nearest the entrance into the front part of the room from the stairs—so that, when the patient came into the room at a quarter past two o'clock, she saw none of them. She was placed in a chair in the midst of the room, well supported by cushions. There were present eight members of the Committee, two medical subscribers who had been invited, and a friend of Mr. Amor admitted at the request of this gentleman, the Secretary, the Matron, and three mesmerisers, besides Mr. Tubbs and his friend, Mr. Burman, who always kindly assists at Mr. Tubbs's operations.

Mr. Tubbs induced sleep-waking in nine minutes by holding her hands and staring into her eyes. After a time her eyelids quivered and her eyes converged and turned upwards; and, in nine minutes from the first, her eyes closed and her head drooped, as she reclined in her chair. Mr. Tubbs then ceased to hold first one hand and then the other; and each dropped powerless into her lap. The left hand was allowed to lie where it fell; the right hand and arm were held up and aside by Mr. Burman, that they might be out of the operator's way. She was quite insensible to pain from mechanical violence; but, we were told, could hear, and speak in a very gentle voice, swallow and walk, though unable to open her eyes. The table with all the articles for the operation was moved from behind the folding door to the side of the operator, and the door folded back. To maintain the soundness of the sleep-waking, the Secretary, standing behind her, at Mr. Tubbs's request, made slow passes during the whole of the operation over her head from before backwards. Mr. Tubbs sat down before her, opened her dress, took his knife, and made a deep cut at the highest and inner part of the right breast, carrying it elliptically downwards. The attention of all was breathless. Familiar as I am with all the phenomena of mesmerism, I confess that I looked with deep anxiety and deep astonishment at the knife passing slowly down, making a deep frightful gash five inches in length into the beautiful white and plump breast of a young woman, and at her placid countenance and breathing, with every expression of a sweet and undisturbed sleep. Another

similar incision was made on the outer side of the breast, joining the first at its beginning and its termination. He then cut out all the breast between them, and, putting his fingers into the wound in all directions to ascertain if any diseased part remained, he found a small lump, and deliberately cut it away. There was scarcely any loss of blood. Five needles armed with ligatures were passed through the edges of the incision, the two ends of each ligature were drawn and tied together, and strips of adhesive plaster and a bandage applied, the patient's dress was adjusted, the table moved away again into the back room, and the folding door brought forward again before it, so that no sign remained anywhere of what had been done. During the *whole* of the operation, which was performed with unusual slowness to prevent the assertion that it was performed too rapidly for her to have suffered much, not a sound escaped the patient; she sat perfectly still, silent, and relaxed, like any one in the sweetest sleep—not a part quivered or twitched; her lips were relaxed and motionless; and, in order further to shew that she exerted no effort to restrain herself while the gashes were making, I moved the ends of her fingers backwards and forwards, in complete relaxation, with the tip of one of my fingers. There was no holding or catching of her breath: all was the relaxation and placidity of complete repose. In fact, her countenance, which is extremely good, expressed the height of composure: and she was not subjected to restraint of any kind.

Before she was mesmerised I felt her pulse, and it was 60; after she was sent off Mr. Tubbs found it 54; and her face became flushed a little. At the latter part of the operation, after the incisions were made, and while the ligatures were being applied, I observed her grow pale, and I felt her pulse. It was too rapid, feeble, and irregular for me to count; and, finding that one of her habitual attacks of fainting was seizing her, I poured out a glass of wine, mixed it with water in a tumbler, and put it to her lips. She began to sip it, and slowly finished it. Her pulse and colour returned.

Mr. Tubbs, after waiting a little and addressing the company upon the most marvellous, the most important, and the most blessed sight which we had witnessed, proceeded to awake her, and succeeded in less than a minute by transverse passes before her.

She looked around like one awaking from sleep; and, on being asked how she felt, replied, "Very well." Mr. Tubbs then asked her if she thought the operation had been performed. She said she did not know, and asked if it had

been. Not receiving an answer, she looked at the company and her own bosom, and, observing all to be as when she sat down, seemed bewildered, as though from Mr. Tubbs's manner she fancied it had been performed, and yet she could not believe it had. She was now informed of the fact, and was very thankful. On being asked whether she had felt anything, she answered, "Nothing;" and to the question—what was the last thing she recollected, she replied to Mr. Tubbs, "Your sending me to sleep, Sir, and the last thing I saw was your eyes."

It was proposed to carry her to bed, but she unaffectedly declined, and deliberately walked up two pairs of stairs, got into bed, and was sent back into her mesmeric trance by a few downward passes before her face.

Before Mrs. Flowerday was awakened, Mr. Tubbs asked her how she was. She replied in a low gentle tone, "Comfortable," and said no more, having apparently been unconscious of what had passed: and I observed, in every subsequent sleep-waking, that she took no notice of anything that was done to her; being evidently exceedingly torpid. Had she made this reply after waking, and said as she did that she had felt nothing, it would not have been satisfactory, because she might have forgotten that she had suffered: just as persons, after the effect of chloroform is over, prove nothing when they declare that they had felt no pain although they might have roared and resisted during the operation. Surgeons always declare that such patients felt nothing: whereas in all probability they felt acutely, but forgot all on waking. This was the conviction of the late Mr. Humphrey, Q.C., who declared to me that he was persuaded that he had felt acutely in an operation performed upon him. A single groan or twitch from a mesmerised patient would cause surgeons to declare that he felt pain; and, if he said that he had not felt, to brand him as an impostor. I unfortunately asked Mrs. Flowerday no questions, intending to ask them in her next mesmeric sleep, as the circumstances of one sleep-waking are usually remembered in another. But in her I subsequently found that there is no recollection in one sleep-waking of the occurrences of a preceding one.

All those who were present unhesitatingly signed the following declaration: "We, the undersigned, witnessed the removal of Mrs. Flowerday's breast by Mr. W. J. Tubbs, of Upwell, Cambridgeshire, to-day, at the Mesmeric Infirmary, No. 36, Weymouth Street, and are perfectly satisfied that she suffered not the slightest pain, as indeed she herself declared on being awakened out of her mesmeric trance, and

that she had no idea of the operation having been performed. After the operation she walked up two pairs of stairs to bed. John Elliotson, Conduit Street; E. S. Symes, M.D., Bourdon House, Berkeley Square; A. Kiste, 37, Maddox Street; R. Goff, 21, Kensington Gore; John Amor, 135, New Bond Street; Smith Burman, Surgeon, Wisbeach; F. C. Beard, Surgeon, 44, Welbeck Street; M. E. Bagnold, Lieut.-Col., 14, Upper Hamilton Terrace, St. John's Wood; T. W. Shaw, Kensington; W. Underwood, 1, Vere Street, Cavendish Square; T. Purland, Surgeon-Dentist, 7, Mortimer Street; W. Fisher, 18, Euston Place, Euston Square; C. Mayhew, 33, Alfred Street; E. Sherborn, Matron; T. Gardiner, Resident Secretary."

In a letter which I received a week afterwards from Mr. Tubbs, he writes, "My firm conviction is she did not feel the knife. Had it been under chloroform I should have taken it out in half the time: but I was determined to do it coolly, though I must admit I was rather nervous when I made my first cut down to the pectoral muscle. It was indeed an anxious moment; but, when I did not perceive a quiver, I gained confidence and took the cutting coolly. Mr. Burman\* has candidly acknowledged he never saw so good a case under chloroform. Will you not agree with me that it would have been a dangerous case for chloroform? *I believe she would have died.*"

I also firmly believe that chloroform would have killed her,—such was the fainting which seized her while the wound was being sewn up. The poor woman was subject to ague and asthma, and fits of fainting, had a cough, and was weakened by her periodical losses.

Mr. Tubbs in another letter writes:—"—— amputated under chloroform at —— (not far from Upwell) just before Mrs. Flowerday's operation: the patient died twelve hours after the operation: it was nothing but the action of chloroform at the first instant. The knife had no sooner made the first cut than the patient's face turned pale, the lips blue, and respiration almost ceased. —— had the limb off as quickly as possible. I had to command the circulation. The patient was laid down, pressure on the chest was made, cold water applied to the head and face: and animation returned. Stimulants were given, but the patient remained exhausted,

---

\* Mr. Burman operates a great deal, but always under chloroform: not yet daring to face the prejudices against mesmerism. As he is a good man, I trust he will now imitate his friend Tubbs. The interest he has taken in this case, and his kindness and indifference to trouble, place him very high in my esteem.

and death closed the scene in twelve hours. After this I would not let Mrs. Flowerday take chloroform :\* but urged her being mesmerised."

Had that patient died at once, the death would have been ascribed to fright and shock, or to chloroform and fright and shock ; like one that occurred in the month of May in a London hospital in an operation like that of Mrs. Flowerday.

Many indeed are the deaths from chloroform unregistered, unpublished, and spoken not of by the surgeon, because fortunately for him the death does not occur at the time of the operation, but, as in this example, twelve, or twenty-four hours, or possibly two, three, or several days, subsequently, so that some other cause can be given for the poisoning.

Mrs. Flowerday never suffered an ache or pain afterwards. A slight bleeding occurred in an hour, but soon ceased of itself. She was sent into the mesmeric sleep by a single pass night and morning, and allowed to remain in it a couple of hours. She ate and slept well as if no operation had been performed : her pulse was always at the natural standard : her tongue quite clean and moist : her bowels were regular. The catamenia came at the proper time, four days after the operation, but were less profuse than usual, and ceased in four days. The wound healed rapidly and perfectly. She left the Infirmary for Upwell on the 31st of May, quite well, and might have left ten days before with safety. On the 29th of May (a very wet day), she without asking permission walked to London Bridge, went by the train to Sydenham, and, after walking about and looking at the Crystal Palace, returned in the evening : all the better she said for the trip.

She would have returned much earlier, but that, unfortunately, at the end of a week, she walked down stairs and sat in the large room where the operation had been performed, and put on a thinner shawl than she was accustomed to wear. These errors brought on a severe cold fit of her ague, running at the nose, quick breathing, cough, and feverishness. By keeping her in bed, lowering her flesh diet to slops, and mesmerising her chest well while she was in the mesmeric sleep, all presently subsided.

She did not take a particle of medicine while in the Infirmary.

Dr. Symes was so good as to superintend the management of the case after the operation.

A report of the operation appeared in the *Examiner*, the *Morning Herald*, and *Sun* : and was copied into the *Times*,

---

\* Mr. Tubbs has operated very many times under chloroform.—J. E.

*Standard, Globe, and Morning Advertiser* daily papers, and numerous Sunday and provincial papers, as well as into *Galignani* and other foreign journals. The newspaper press did its duty fearlessly.

A great impression has been made throughout the country, and indeed the Continent: and hundreds of thousands of converts have been made to mesmerism.

Mrs. Flowerday is a very nice person, with every mark of the exemplary wife, mother, and friend. She has pleased all of us. Mr. Tubbs once wrote to me, "She bears an excellent character, shews a mild contented disposition in all her domestic duties, and is satisfied with whatever we have done for her."

While Mrs. Flowerday remained in the Infirmary, I ascertained that she did not remember in one sleep-waking what occurred in another. This is the only example of the kind I have met with.

She heard nothing in her sleep-waking that was done or said, unless when she was addressed and the speaker was quite close to her. She exhibited no other phenomena. Whereas her husband, who is as susceptible as herself, and has had a sound tight tooth extracted and a seton inserted without sensation, becomes extremely rigid when in sleep-waking, exhibits attraction and repulsion, and mesmeric excitement of distinct cerebral organs. He was first mesmerised for severe and daily epilepsy, of which he has been cured now for above two years.

I one day, before she left London, made an experiment to learn whether, besides not feeling pain in her mesmeric state from mechanical causes, she was not ignorant also of everything that was going on. I raised her arms and let them drop: and pinched the skin of one hand so severely as to leave a mark. She of course gave no sign of feeling. When I asked her what I had been doing, she gently and slowly replied, "Nothing that I know of, Sir." In fact, I saw that she was ignorant of the whole, and I believe she was unconscious of the whole steps of the operation, from undressing to the readjustment of her dress.

I will mention a little circumstance which may be striking to those who are unacquainted with the powers of mesmerism. When new strips of plaster were to be applied to the bosom five days after the operation, the old strips were of course removed; and it happened that an end of one of them did not peel off with perfect facility like the rest, but adhered a little closely. At the moment when it came off, she slightly screwed her lips together and sucked the air through with a



little sound, just as we do on occasion of a sudden smart. This shewed what her sensibility was in her ordinary waking state, and what agony she would have felt without mesmerism during the operation. All was natural and unaffected. Nobody was present but Dr. Symes and myself, the Secretary and the Matron: and we made no remark. As it cannot be said that she was only a resolute woman, able to disguise pain: so neither can it be said that she was a woman in whom pain could not be produced. Yet, in the case of the painless amputation in Nottinghamshire read at the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, this was suggested by those who unwisely made the Society regard the poor man as a vile impostor—by Sir Benjamin Brodie and Mr. Coulson, surgeon of St. Mary's Hospital; by Mr. Blake and Mr. Alcock, young surgeons, Dr. Marshall Hall and Dr. Truman—all now I know not where; and by Mr. Liston and Mr. Bransby Cooper, dead and buried, while the poor man remains still a living proof of the blessed truth of mesmerism: notwithstanding it had been stated by the authors of the paper—Mr. Topham, barrister (now Lieut.-Col. Topham of Her Majesty's Body Guard), and by Mr. Ward, the operator—that the man's agony was intense in the waking state on the least motion being given to his leg.

And yet this beautiful affair was but a repetition of what was done six and twenty years ago in Paris by the well-known surgeon, M. Jules Cloquet, who, as well as the mesmeriser, Dr. Chapelain, is still alive.

*Painless removal of a breast in Paris.*

“Madame Plantin, aged 64, living at No. 151, Rue Saint-Denis, consulted M. Cloquet, April 8th, 1829, respecting an open cancer which had existed for several years in her right breast, and which was complicated with a considerable enlargement of the axillary ganglions. M. Chapelain, her physician, who had mesmerised her for some months, with the view of dissipating the disease, could effect only a profound sleep, in which sensation appeared suspended, but intellect remained perfect. He suggested to M. Cloquet to operate upon her in the mesmeric sleep-waking. M. Cloquet, having judged the operation indispensable, consented, and it was fixed for the following Sunday, April 2nd. The previous two days she was mesmerised several times by Dr. Chapelain, who prevailed upon her when in the state of sleep-waking to bear the operation without fear, and brought her even to converse about it calmly; although, when she was awake, she could not listen to the proposal for horror.

“On the day fixed, M. Cloquet arrived at half-past ten in the morning, and found the lady dressed in an arm-chair, in the attitude

of a person calmly asleep. She had returned about an hour from mass, which she habitually attended at that time of the day. Dr. Chapelain had thrown her into the mesmeric sleep on her return. She spoke with perfect calmness of the operation which she was about to undergo. All being ready, she undressed herself, and sat upon a common chair.

"Dr. Chapelain supported her right arm. The left was allowed to hang at her side. M. Pailloux, internal student of the Hospital Saint-Louis, had the charge of presenting the instruments and applying the ligatures. The first incision was begun at the arm-pit, and carried above the breast as far as the inner side of the nipple. The second was begun at the same point, and carried under the breast till it met the first. M. Cloquet dissected out the enlarged ganglions with care, on account of their proximity to the axillary arteries, and removed the breast. The operation lasted ten or twelve minutes.

"*During all this time, the patient conversed calmly with the operator, and gave not the least sign of sensibility; no movement occurred in the limbs or FEATURES, no change in the RESPIRATION or VOICE, no emotion EVEN IN THE PULSE, was discernible; this patient remained uninterruptedly in the same state of automatic indifference and passiveness, (état d'abandon et d'impassibilité automatiques, or, as Mr. Topham says of his patient, 'uncontrolled, in perfect stillness and repose,' 'like a statue?')* in which she was some minutes before the operation. *There was no necessity to restrain her, we had only to support her.* A ligature was applied to the lateral thoracic artery, which was opened in removing the ganglions. The wound was closed with sticking plaster and dressed, and the patient was put to bed, still in the same state of sleep-waking; and was left in this state for eight and forty hours. An hour after the operation a slight hæmorrhage occurred, which proved of no importance.

"The first dressing was removed on Tuesday the 14th; the wound was washed and dressed afresh; the patient shewed no sign of pain; the pulse was undisturbed. After this dressing, Dr. Chapelain awoke the patient, whose sleep-waking had lasted from one hour before the operation, i. e., two days. The lady seemed to have *no idea, no conception, of what had passed*; but, on learning that she had been operated upon, and seeing her children around her, she experienced a very strong emotion, to which the mesmeriser put an end by immediately sending her to sleep again."

"I have extracted the case of the lady from the highly-favourable report, in 1831, of the Committee appointed by the French Academy of Medicine to report upon mesmerism, and to be found in Dr. Foissac's excellent work.\* The Committee continues thus:—

"The Committee see in this case *the most evident proof* of the suspension of sensibility during sleep-waking, and declare that,

---

\* "*Rapports et Discussions de l'Académie Royale de Médecine sur le Magnétisme Animal.* 1833. p. 156."

though they did not witness the case, they find it so *stamped with the character of truth*, it has been attested and reported to them by so good an observer who had communicated it to the surgical section, that they do not fear to present it to you as *a most unquestionable proof* of the state of torpor and stupefaction produced by mesmerism.”\*

People, and especially medical men, have always been talking of the condemnation of mesmerism by French Commissions, omitting the fact that the last French Committee, —in 1831,—was highly favourable to mesmerism.

Be it remembered that, when the account of the painless amputation in Nottinghamshire had been read in the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, Dr. Copland rose in a rage and “*would allow no trace to remain that such a paper had been read,*” and declared that “the fact was unworthy of their consideration because pain is a wise provision of nature, and *patients ought to suffer pain* while their surgeon is operating: they are all the better for it, and recover better.”† The truth is, that the most painful operations are not better recovered from than the least painful, and that *all* the operations performed in the mesmeric state have been well recovered from: many better than in ordinary circumstances.‡

#### *Painless removal of a Breast in America.*

Another removal of a breast during mesmeric insensibility took place in America in 1845. The patient was Mrs. Clark, wife of Mr. Jesse Clark, of Columbia County, Georgia; the operator, Dr. L. A. Ducas, Professor of Physiology in the Medical College of Georgia, who detailed it in the *Southern Medical and Surgical Journal*, published in Augusta City. Several eminent physicians were present. On consulting Dr. Ducas, she mentioned that,—

“She had been advised by Mr. Kenrick to be mesmerised; but as she knew nothing about it, she would ask my advice, and would abide by it. To which I replied that there were several well-authenticated cases on record, in which surgical operations had been performed, under mesmeric influence, without the consciousness of the patient; that I would be happy to test the subject in her case;

---

\* *Numerous Cases of Surgical Operations without Pain in the Mesmeric State; with remarks upon the opposition of many members of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society and others to the reception of the inestimable blessings of Mesmerism.* By John Elliotson, M.D., Cantab., F.R.S. p. 78, &c.

† See *Zotst.* No. XIII., pp. 3, 4. Also my *Numerous Cases*, p. 59. A Mr. Garlick of Halifax wrote the same nonsense in the newspapers. No. XVI., p. 601.

‡ *Zotst.* No. XIII.

and that I would endeavour to mesmerise her, instead of operating as had been proposed, on the day following."

Mesmerism was accordingly performed by Mr. Kenrick on the 4th of January, and she went to sleep and became insensible to pain. The process was repeated daily.

"On the 9th January, I invited Professor Ford to be present, and after pricking and pinching strongly the patient without evidence of pain, the mesmeriser was requested to leave the room, when we exposed the breast, handled it roughly in examining the tumor, and readjusted the dress, without the consciousness of the patient. We then held to her nostrils a vial of strong spirits of hartsborn, which she breathed freely for a minute or two, without the least indication of sensation, unless the fact that she swallowed once be regarded as such, instead of a mere reflex action. On the 11th of January, in the presence of Professors Ford and Mead, in addition to the usual tests, I made with my pocket knife an incision about two inches in length, and half an inch in depth, into the patient's leg, without indication of sensation.

"Fully satisfied now of our power to induce total insensibility, I determined to operate upon her the next day at noon, but carefully concealed any such design from the patient and her friends, who did not expect its performance until several days later.

"On the 20th January, at twenty minutes past 11 a.m., Mrs. Clark was put to sleep in forty-five seconds, without touch or pass of any kind, the facility with which the mesmeric influence was produced having gradually increased at each sitting. At 12 o'clock a.m., in the presence of Professors Ford, Mead, Garvin, and Newton, and Dr. Halsee, the patient being in a profound sleep, I prepared her dress for the operation, and requested my professional brothers to note her pulse, respiration, complexion, countenance, &c., before, during, and after the amputation in order to detect any evidence of pain, or modification of the functions. As Mr. Kenrick had never witnessed a surgical operation, he feared he might lose his self-possession, and requested to be blindfolded, which was done. He now seated himself on the couch near the patient, and held her hand in his during the operation. This was accomplished by two elliptical incisions about eight inches in length, comprehending between them the nipple and a considerable portion of the skin; after which the integuments were dissected up in the usual manner, and the entire mamma removed. It weighed sixteen ounces. The wound was then left open about three quarters of an hour, in order to secure the bleeding vessels, six of which were ligated. The ordinary dressing was applied, and all appearances of blood carefully removed, so that they might not be seen by the patient when aroused. The amount of hæmorrhage was rather more than is usual in such cases.

"During the operation the patient gave no indication whatever of sensibility, nor was any of the functions observed by those present modified in the least degree. She remained in the same sound and quiet sleep as before the use of the knife. Subsequently the pectoral

muscle, which had been laid bare, was twice or thrice seen to contract when touched with the sponge in removing the blood. About 15 minutes after the operation, a tremulous action was perceived in the lower jaw, which was instantaneously arrested by the application of the mesmeriser's hand to the patient's head. This phenomenon recurred in about ten minutes after, and was again in the same manner requited. Professor Ford, who counted the pulse and respiration, states that before any preparation was made for the operation, the pulse was 96, and the respiration 16 per minute; that after removing the patient to arrange her dress for the operation, and just before this was commenced, the pulse was 98, and the respiration 17; that immediately after the detachment of the breast, the pulse was 96—respiration not counted; and that after the final adjustment of the bandages and dress, which required the patient to rise and move about, the pulse was 98 and the respiration 16. All present concur in stating that neither the placid countenance of the patient, nor the peculiar natural blush of the cheeks, experienced any change whatever during the whole process; that she continued in the same profound and quiet sleep, in which she was before noted, and that, had they not been aware of what was being done, they would not have suspected it from any indications furnished by the patient's condition.

"The patient having been permitted to sleep on about half an hour after the final arrangement of her dress, the mesmeriser made passes over the seat of the operation in order to lessen its sensibility, and aroused her in the usual manner, when she engaged in cheerful conversation with Mr. Kenrick and myself, as though she had no suspicion of what had taken place. I then introduced to her the gentlemen, who had placed themselves so as not to be seen by her on awakening, and observed that I had invited them to come in during her sleep, in order that we might fully test her insensibility preparatory to the operation. After a few minutes of conversation, I asked her when she would like to have the operation performed? To which she replied, 'The sooner the better,' as she was anxious to get home. I added, 'Do you really think that I could remove your entire breast when asleep without your knowledge?' Answer—'Why, doctor, the fact is, that from the various experiments I am told you have made on me, I really do not know what to think of it.' 'Well, madam, suppose I were to perform the operation one of these days, and to inform you of it when you would awake, would you believe me, and could you control your feelings on finding that it had been done?' Answer—'I could not suppose that you would deceive me, and of course I would be very glad, but would try not to give way to my feelings.' 'Have you perceived since your arrival here, or do you now perceive, any change in the ordinary sensations of the affected breast?' 'No, sir, it feels about as it has done for some time back.'

"About a quarter of an hour having elapsed since she awoke, I then told her that as we found her in a proper state for the operation, I had performed it, and that the breast was now removed. She

expressed her incredulity—said I was certainly jesting, as it was impossible that it could have been without her knowing it at the time, or feeling anything of it now. She became convinced only on carrying her hand to the part and finding that the breast was no longer there. She remained apparently unmoved for a few moments, when, her friends approaching to congratulate her, her face became flushed, and she wept unaffectedly for some time. The wound healed by the first intention.

“In laying the above narrative before the profession, it is due to the cause of truth to state, that it has been submitted to all the physicians at the operation, and that I am authorized by them to say that it accords in every particular with their own observations so far as they were present. I should also add, that having no other object in view than the establishment of the fact that a surgical operation may be performed under such circumstances without the consciousness of the patient, I have designedly avoided any mention of the various and interesting mesmeric phenomena manifested prior and subsequently to the operation. These have been carefully and judiciously recorded by Mr. Kenrick, whose well-directed zeal has enabled him to collect a body of highly important facts from a field unfortunately explored too exclusively in ignorance and charlatanism.

“Augusta, Ga., 1st Feb., 1845.”\*

*Painless removal of the same disease on its return.*

The disease returned in May: formed a distinct tumor, which increased rapidly, became painful, and was attended by slow fever. The same gentlemen mesmerised and operated: and the affair is detailed by him in the same journal, for September, 1845.

“I now requested Mr. Kenrick to ascertain whether he could still mesmerise her, and, if she were susceptible, to repeat the operation in a few days, so that we might test her sensibility in that state. Mrs. C. was readily put into the mesmeric state, and found to be entirely insensible during its continuance. Deeming it unnecessary to repeat the tests, I determined to operate on the 13th June, several days sooner than was expected by either herself or her friends. The operation was performed in presence of Professors L. D. Ford and Jos. A. Eve, Drs. L. Kennon and J. F. Hammond, the Rev. Mr. Alfred Ford, and Mr. F. J. Martin. The patient was mesmerised at 9 o'clock a.m., and the extirpation effected at about 10 o'clock, by making a semilunar incision along a portion of the circumference of the tumor, turning over a flap, and dissecting away the indurated mass and surrounding tissues, making up the volume of a hen's egg.

“During the operation, Mr. Kenrick, being blindfolded to avoid the unpleasant spectacle, sat by the patient, with her hands in his. Mr. K. avers that Mrs. C. evinced no uneasiness by grasping his

---

\* *Zoist*, No. XI., p. 380.

*hands, that her fingers did not twitch, and in short, that her hands remained perfectly passive. Professor Ford, whom I had requested to note the pulse and respiratory act particularly, informs me that there was no appreciable change in their character and frequency before, during, and after the operation. The countenance of the patient and the hue of her cheeks presented no change whatever, nor was there the least indication of sensibility detected during or subsequently to the operation, by those who were present and anxiously watching the result. There was neither twitching of the pectoral muscle when touched with the sponge, nor tremor of the lower jaw. Indeed the patient slept on as quietly as an undisturbed infant, through the entire operation.*

"The wound was left open about half an hour, a small vessel ligated and the ordinary dressing applied. The patient was permitted to sleep on, and awoke spontaneously at a quarter-past one o'clock p.m. in the presence of Dr. Ford, the Rev. Mr. Ford, Mr. Kenrick, and myself. Dr. Kennon arrived a moment afterwards. She appeared entirely unconscious of what had been done, and was much surprised as well as gratified on being informed that the operation was over. She stated that she *had not suspected our design, and had no recollection of having experienced the least uneasiness during her nap.*

"I will add on this occasion, as I did on reporting the former case, that the above statement has been submitted to all the professional gentlemen, and that they fully concur in its accuracy."\*

At the end of the article by myself which contains the account of this and other painless operations performed in France at Cherbourg, where a painless amputation had been effected a little previously, I terminated some facts and reflections in these words:—

"Yes! sixteen years elapsed, as far as I know, before the great fact at Paris of Dr. Chapelain's production of painlessness under M. Cloquet's operation was imitated in France: and then it was imitated in a remote province. Not one of the great operations which have been performed in England has been performed in London, or our other cities, where there are schools, great hospitals, and redoubtable surgeons. The first amputation was performed in the village of Wellow, at a hospital supported by a few wealthy families, and possessing but twelve beds;—the others at the watering place of Torquay; in the country town of Leicester, a place of no medical or surgical reputation; and at some place called Alyth, in Perthshire, not in Edinburgh or Glasgow; and all these by men whom Sir Benjamin Brodie, Mr. Keate, Mr. Key, and the rest of our metropolitan surgeons, regard as humble and obscure individuals. Indeed no surgical operation beyond extraction of teeth, the introduction of setons, and bleeding, has yet been performed in London, Edinburgh, or any other British city; and these have been per-

---

\* See *Zoist*, No. XIII., p. 4.

formed at the instance of the few known individuals who have subjected themselves to the persecution of the medical profession. The other amputations, removal of tumors, &c., have been performed in our colonies, eastern and western, or in the country which was our colony till nobly wrested from our unjust domination. This is a sad tale to tell."

This paragraph I wrote in April, 1846: and every word of it holds good now in 1854. How enlightened, how noble minded, how courageous, how benevolent and conscientious, does Mr. Tubbs stand forth above the surgeons of our towns and cities and the metropolis, some of them making thousands a year, some of them authors, and, forsooth, teachers of the rising generation at the various medical schools! Mr. Tubbs practises all the branches of his profession in a little obscure village among the fens of Cambridgeshire.

On February the 28th of the same year Dr. (Sir John) Forbes wickedly wrote in the *Athenæum*, "It is well known that the most striking and attractive delusions of recent times are homœopathy and mesmerism."

Dr. Esdaile removed two breasts painlessly in India: one in 1846, the other in 1849:—

*Painless removal of a breast in India.*

"November 9th. Doahmony, a peasant woman, aged 50, has come from Benares to get an immense scirrhus tumor of the right breast removed. It commenced two years ago, and is moveable, hard, and elastic; there is no enlargement of the axillary glands, and she does not look in very bad health.

"On the 7th day of mesmerising, she was entranced, her arms were partially cataleptic, and she was insensible to pricking. Next day, she was again put to sleep, and two-thirds of the tumor removed without her moving or appearing to feel it. She then awoke up, and appeared to recover her senses before the operation was finished. No manual restraint was used during the excision of the mass, but she became very violent immediately after, and required to be forcibly held down while the arteries were being tied.

"The breast weighed 7 pounds.

"December 29th. Discharged at her own request, her friends having come for her from Benares. The sore is nearly healed."

Two thirds were *certainly* removed without sensation: the remaining third most probably without sensation, though the patient woke up. For mesmerised, like chloroformed, persons sometimes feel no pain though they are awake. Mr. Case, of Fareham, related the following instance in *The Zoist*, No. V., p. 107:—



"Sarah Pink, aged 20, was mesmerised with an intention of having a tooth removed.

"Effects were produced in about twenty minutes; among which there was an entire insensibility. She answered questions readily; but, after doing so for about a quarter of an hour, she suddenly awoke.

"She was mesmerised again the next day with equal effect; but, after conversing for about ten minutes, she again suddenly awoke.

"Long-continued attempts were made on the day following to mesmerise her, but without producing any effect; and then she determined to have her tooth extracted,—this was immediately done. As soon as it was out, she arose hastily from her chair, and declared that she had felt *no pain whatever* during the operation, and this she *again and again positively repeated*. Nor did she certainly express any sense of pain; though on the occasion of a former operation without mesmerisation, her expressions of pain were *quite excessive and vehement*."

Some patients who have been operated upon under chloroform have assured me that, though they felt no pain at all, they were otherwise wide awake and observed all the steps of the operation. Dr. (Sir John) Forbes, being in high excitement as soon as the news of the anæsthetic power of the dangerous inhalation of ether arrived in England (all for the benefit of suffering human nature, no doubt, as his conduct in reference to the anæsthetic blessings of mesmerism had shewn!), and hoping to damage for ever the utility of the anæsthetic power of invariably innocent mesmerism, published in the *Times* of Dec. 28, 1846, (such a hurry was he in,) an article which he was preparing for his own journal; and in it he related that one patient

"Knew what the operator was doing, perceived him, for example, take hold of the tooth and draw it out, felt the grating of the instruments, but still felt no pain."

Had this occurred under mesmerism the patient would have been vilified as an impostor by Messrs. Forbes, Wakley, Brodie, and all the profession.

Various effects of mesmerism, rigidity of one part or other, for example, occasionally remain after a person is awake again: and so may anæsthesia, local or general. A remarkable example of this was published by Dr. Esdaile, and will be found in the Thirteenth Number of *The Zoist*, p. 41. The insensibility to pain lasted a short time after a Hindoo was awake.

"*Application of strong acid.*—Aug. 8th. Gendo, a Hindoo woman, aged 50. There is a large sloughing ulcer covering all the right temple. She was mesmerised at 10 o'clock, and at half-past 11 I applied muriatic acid (there being no nitric acid in store) freely to

the whole surface, *without her shewing any sensibility*: she awoke twenty minutes after, and knew nothing about it.\*

"Aug. 13th. Dr. Finch" (editor of the *Calcutta Medical Journal*, and bound therefore to look as sagacious as Wakley, Forbes, and the other medical editors of England) "freely applied muriatic acid (such as is furnished by the Company's Dispensary) to the sore covering the whole right temple of the woman Gendo, who was mesmerised in their presence by one of the hospital attendants, without her shewing *the smallest degree of consciousness*; and it was with great difficulty that I awoke her, after they had failed to do so. On coming to her senses, she declared that she knew nothing about it."

"Aug. 18th. The woman Gendo next fell under his observation. The ulcer on this woman's temple was covered with muriatic acid by Dr. Finch on the 11th instant, with the results already related. Dr. Bedford asked leave to apply the acid to her when awake; and whatever I might think of such a proposal, I consented. The end of the glass-stopper wetted with the acid was applied once or twice, and the woman for a few seconds shewed none of the instinctive movements of acute pain. There could be no mistake about it—she was found out, and I confess that I felt considerably obfuscated, and not relieved from my thick-coming faucies by Dr. B. suggesting that '*she was probably a naturally insensible person.*' I began to think the arch-deceiver was at the bottom of it after all; and that having set a snare and delusion for me, he was now laughing at my beard. Then again, I thought of complaining to the Medical Board against the Apothecary-General for furnishing such asses' milk as mineral acids for the public service—when lo! I was roused from my trance of bewilderment by hearing the woman complain, that we had 'put pepper on her head;' and her actions corresponded with such an idea, for she sat up shewing that she was in great pain, and immediately after declared her head was on fire; got out of bed, and walked distractedly about the room in great agony. I ordered her head to be fomented to soothe her; Dr. B. saying, that 'he had done more than he intended.' The defective sensibility that had nearly compromised my mesmeric surgical operations, and the honesty of my patients and the Company's acids, was simply a film of insensible lymph that adhered to the surface of the sore, and protected, for a moment, the nerves below. As the most effectual means of assuaging the poor woman's sufferings, I desired the Durwan, who is her mesmeriser, to endeavour to throw her into the trance; this he succeeded in doing, and I took the occasion to pare off some tubercles around the sore that prevented it from healing; she moved a little, and put her hand to her ear; but immediately after became quite tranquil. In about half an hour I awoke her with very great difficulty, that Dr. B. might see her awake, and hear her first words; which were, that she knew nothing about what we were talking of, she had even forgotten\* being burned."

---

\* On this curious point see my facts in No. XII., p. 476.—J. E.

As no manual restraint was required after the woman Doahmony awoke while the remaining third of the breast was being cut away, and, as she became so violent afterwards, I have no doubt that the insensibility to pain lasted some seconds after she woke—till the removal was completed. Sensibility then returned, and her shrieks while the arteries were tying shewed how strong it was. Means ought to have been taken during the operation to maintain her sleep, and, when she awoke, to induce it afresh.

*Painless removal of another breast in India.*

"The second patient was a young woman of 23, one of whose mammae was so large that it rested on her thigh when she sat up. The disease commenced only a year ago, and this rapid growth produced the following singular results. The tumor, larger than a man's head, was attached to the body by an isthmus, a foot long, and it was evident that the mammary gland, or true breast, had left the chest altogether and was lodged in the tumor. Dr. Esdaile, before proceeding to operate, pointed this out to the spectators, and thus accounted for it. He supposed that the mass was a fatty tumor that had involved the mammary gland, which however had not become diseased nor contracted adhesions to the neighbouring parts, but by the sudden and great growth of the tumor he believed that the mammary gland had been loosened from its natural connections, and, as the skin was lengthened by the depending weight, it altogether left the body, and was lodged in the centre of the tumor at the distance of a foot from the chest. This woman was so sensitive to the mesmeric influence, that she was fit to be operated upon the first day, in a quarter of an hour. Her picture was taken in the trance the second day, and yesterday the tumor was removed without the slightest disturbance of the body from head to foot; and at the end of an hour, when our informant left the hospital, she was still sleeping as tranquilly as a healthy child.

"The tumor weighed 10 lbs., and when cut open was found to correspond very exactly with Dr. Esdaile's theoretic description of it. The mammary gland was enclosed in the centre of a fatty mass, and quite healthy in structure, but considerably enlarged."\*

In April, 1839, Dr. James Johnson wrote thus in his *Medical and Chirurgical Review* :—

"Where is this celebrated science?" "The brief career and tragic tale of animal magnetism may exercise a beneficial influence on our profession, which, alas! has proved itself—at least a portion of it—to be credulous as the ignorant African or the benighted Hindoo! Half a century hence, when the periodicals of this time are pored over by some book-worm of that day, the investigator will rub his eyes and wipe his spectacles, on turning to the pages of the *Lancet* and *Gazette* for 1838. He will scarcely believe that men,

---

\* *Zoist*, No. XVIII., p. 179; No. XXX., p. 191.

whose names, too, may go down the stream of time, with credit and honour, in other respects, should have been so infatuated as to give a moment's credence to such outrageous ravings as those of animal magnetism. . . . But he will learn with satisfaction that an *overwhelming majority of the profession set their faces against the imposture and scouted the credulity of their deluded brethren.* The lesson has been placed on record, that such delusions cannot be participated in, or even countenanced with impunity. It is quite unnecessary to advert to the disastrous consequences which have followed in the train of this momentary mania! They will serve as a beacon to prevent the shipwreck of others."

In my pamphlet upon *Surgical Operations performed without Pain in the Mesmeric State* that was published in 1843, I gave the details of the amputation of the leg in Nottinghamshire, and of the fury with which the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society scouted it, declaring the poor patient an impostor trained for the purpose by mesmerists, and not allowing the account to appear in their records, nor even a minute that such an account had been read before them: and I gave equal details of every operation performed up to that period.

"They were Cloquet's removal of a breast, in France—the first mesmeric painless operation recorded, we believe; the insertion of a seton in Elizabeth Okey's neck, in University College Hospital; the division of the ham strings, by Dr. Engledue; the extraction of teeth; an operation on the jaw; and the amputation of the Nottinghamshire peasant's leg.

"Cloquet's case was totally disregarded by himself and all other surgeons. The first operation rendered painless in Great Britain by mesmerism was the insertion of the seton in Elizabeth Okey; the second was Dr. Engledue's. In the pamphlet was recorded also the opening of an abscess: and the removal of a large wart."

*The Zoist* came into existence at the same time with my pamphlet, and the following are the painless operations which it has recorded.

1844.

#### Venesections.

Extractions of teeth, some of which were performed in America before the insertion of the seton into Elizabeth Okey's neck, so that America followed France, and preceded England, in painless surgical operations: a remarkable instance of a woman in whom the mesmeric process, conducted by Mr. Case, surgeon, at Fareham, Hants, induced no other effect than that she felt no pain while the tooth was extracted: a patient similarly circumstanced in University

College Hospital, London, was declared by the ignorant to have shammed (No. V., p. 108).

Establishment of setons and issues.

Excisions of tumors.

Openings of abscesses.

Four amputations.

An operation for squinting.

The painless cutting down upon the length of a nail and extracting a splinter.

1845.

Five painless amputations.

Three removals of tumors.

Removal of a breast.

Removal of a polypus from the nose.

Forcible extension of a contracted cicatrix or scar.

Paring an ulcer of a heel.

Deep incisions into abscesses.

Several extractions of teeth.

1846.

Six amputations.

Twenty-one removals of tumors: some weighing 30 lbs.; one 40 lbs.; and one 112 lbs.

Cutting out a nail.

Application of strong acid to a sore.

Application of red-hot iron to a sore.

Many applications of caustic to the eye.

Removal of an enlarged testis—two cases.

Removal of preputium.

Removal of breast—two cases.

Paring sores—four cases.

Tapping—two cases.

Opening abscesses, &c.

Operations, consisting in simple incisions, or for fistula—eleven cases.

Injecting hydrocele—five cases.

Operation for cataract.

Removal of excrescence—two cases.

Tearing adhesions asunder.

Extending a contracted knee.

Extractions of teeth, numerous.

Introduction of setons.

Dividing the tendon of the heel.

Prevention of pain in reducing prolapsed intestine.

1847.

Removal of a breast.  
 Eight removals of tumors: one 40 lbs., and another  
 100 lbs. in weight.  
 Opening of a whitlow.  
 Cutting down upon and tying an artery.  
 Extractions of teeth.

1848.

Thirty-four removals of tumors, some of very great size  
 and weight.  
 Amputation of a great toe.  
 For hydrocele.  
 Lithotomy.  
 Extractions of teeth.  
 Removal of scirrhus testis—two cases.  
 The application of strong nitric acid to a sore.  
 Ditto of caustic to a sore.  
 Painless parturition—two cases.

1849.

Ten removals of tumors—some very large.  
 Removal of a malignant tumor of the eye, and subse-  
 quent application of strong nitric acid to the wound.  
 Application of strong nitric acid to a sore.  
 Reports in one half year, of THIRTY-ONE capital opera-  
 tions: and in the next, of THIRTY-ONE.  
 In one place we read that after 100 *capital* operations in  
 the mesmeric insensibility, only two patients died within a  
 month—one from *cholera*, and the other of *lock-jaw*.

1850.

Bursting a ganglion by a blow.  
 The application of caustic to an inflamed eye.  
 The making an issue—two cases.  
 Venesection.  
 Teeth extractions.  
 Almost painless parturition.  
 Painless removal of a breast.

1851.

The removal of a very painful wart.  
 Many extractions of teeth.  
 Painless parturition.  
 Dr. Esdaile had now left India: and no one like him rose

up to compensate for the depravity, I use the word advisedly, of the medical profession, who strenuously withheld the blessing of mesmerism from the inhabitants of India.

1852.

Painless removal of a large tumor.  
Twenty-nine painless operations in India.  
Numerous teeth extractions.

1853.

Teeth extractions.

Endless, though small, surgical operations have been performed without pain, but not recorded.

Mr. H. S. Thompson informed me the other day that he once extracted a tooth, and once opened a very large boil, besides the whitlow in 1847. The whitlow was so tender in the waking state as not to bear the least touch: yet Mr. Thompson entranced the poor girl in a few minutes at the first attempt and opened it with a penknife without her knowledge. Last week, Dr. Mitchelson mentioned to me that, though he had never witnessed mesmerism, he once tried it and instantly succeeded so as to lance a breast without pain. Mr. Townshend relates the fact in his last work:—

“A poor woman had an abscess of the breast, to attend which Dr. M—— was called in. The complaint was of the worst kind. The patient could not bear the diseased part to be touched ever so lightly: yet a speedy operation was essential. Dr. M——, from circumstances in the patient's constitution, had fears of chloroform, and opiates were out of the question. In this dilemma, suddenly it struck the Doctor, that he might try to mesmerise the patient. Having merely gained her consent to make passes over her, which he said would do her good, he proceeded, without further ‘suggestion,’ to the work.

“Where Nature requires the mesmeric sleep, it is not slow to come. In ten minutes, the poor woman was in the deepest trance: and then and there, Dr. M—— lanced the breast, handled it without exciting the least sensation, and, to use his own expression, ‘Squeezed it like an orange.’ When the patient was awake, she would not, till she had ocular and palpable demonstration, believe that an operation had been performed.

“The next day, in furtherance of the cure, Dr. M—— wished to mesmerise the patient again—but, mark the sequel. The woman had, in the meantime, learned from a neighbour that she had been ‘mesmerised!’—that the soothing and simple operation of hand-waving, whereby she had been made to sleep, was that horrid, wicked thing called ‘mesmerism’—that witchcraft, of which the patient had

heard always with trembling. In fine, her husband forbade any further application of the beneficial 'gift of God.'”\*

#### DEATHS FROM CHLOROFORM.

In No. XXVIII. (January, 1850) I recorded all the published deaths with which I was acquainted from ether and chloroform, mentioning the operation, the time, and place. Far more must have occurred, because when the death takes place several days afterwards, the patient gradually sinking, it is not spoken of as the effect of the poison. It is amusing to notice the strange views of medical men on this point. A London lecturer on midwifery, Dr. Barnes, gives a case in the *Lancet* for July 3, 1850; p. 50, of one of these unrecorded deaths from chloroform:—"A lady underwent amputation of the breast from chloroform. She was utterly unconscious of the operation, but the shock was too manifest to be mistaken. The energies of life were fatally struck; the pulse ebbed away hour by hour: on the sixth day she was dead. What did chloroform effect here? It saved the patient the perception of pain, the mental shock. The blow had been struck at the heart."

Can any one doubt that no bodily shock, but poisonous chloroform, killed the patient? Such cases are continually occurring in which the operation could occasion no shock, as it was the extraction of a tooth, the removal of a little pile, &c.: whereas when, not chloroform, but mesmerism, has been employed, tumors weighing from ten to above a hundred pounds have been cut away again and again, and never has an instance of death taken place.

From ether there had been published since 1847 EIGHT.

From chloroform, EIGHTEEN.

I will now record the subsequent deaths which I find in the medical journals. But will first detail three accounts of the prevention through mesmerism of deaths from chloroform. The first two are by M. Ricord, the celebrated Parisian surgeon.

"CASE 1.—The patient who furnishes the subject of my first case, was a woman of about 26, from whom I was about to remove some growths of no great size. She was previously chloroformed, to which she only submitted after repeated entreaties, for she appeared to be excessively timid.

"The anæsthetic effect of the chloroform was very rapid, for after a few respirations she appeared asleep; the sponge was removed, and I commenced excising the growths, but had scarcely

---

\* *Mesmerism proved True, &c.*, p. 117.



given two or three cuts, when one of my assistant-surgeons told me that the pulse appeared to be failing. I now saw, in fact, that the beating of the heart was suspended, that all respiratory movements had ceased, and that the lips were livid, and hung down. The limbs were completely relaxed, and the paleness of the face showed that the patient was in that state of syncope which is the herald of death. All the remedies indicated in such a case were forthwith employed, as cold currents of air, sprinkling cold water on the face, tickling the nostrils, &c. Artificial respiration, by pressure on the walls of the chest, was tried.

"The syncope continued, and death seemed close at hand. I began to be uneasy, and determined to try direct insufflation. I applied my mouth to that of the patient. After some inspirations the dying woman gave a sigh, her chest heaved, the face resumed its normal colour, the heart and pulse commenced beating in an appreciable manner, and the eyes opened; respiration had again brought into play all the functions of life, and the return of sensation was evidenced by a smile. The patient was saved, and we escaped with a fright.

"**CASE 2.**—The second time that I experienced the dangers of chloroform was with a patient under my care in the Southern Hospital (Hôpital du Midi). He was a young man whose case required circumcision. As this operation is generally painful enough, he asked me to send him to sleep with the chloroform. A sponge impregnated with it was given him to respire from: the action was very rapid, without any appearance of preceding excitement, and the patient was soon plunged into total insensibility. I performed the operation, but when it was concluded, the patient did not recover his consciousness, and remained in a state of alarming stillness. The pulse gradually sank; the heart ceased to beat; all the sphincters were relaxed, and his cadaverous face seemed to testify that death was near.

"All the means I have indicated in the preceding case were tried, but without avail, and it became necessary to have recourse to direct insufflation, which had already so well succeeded in one case. Success crowned my efforts, and the patient recovered."\*

The third case is by Mr. Bleeck, surgeon, of Warminster.

"On July 3rd of last year, I removed a large scirrhus breast from a strong stout woman, Mrs. K——, aged 42, the wife of a plumber, of this town. It was her wish that she should be put under the influence of chloroform, which was accordingly done. For several minutes her system resisted the influence of the remedy, and it was not till three drachms were used, and the vapour concentrated by placing a fold of lint over the back of the inhaler, that she was rendered unconscious.

"The removal of the breast occupied about four minutes, during

---

\* *Lancet*, Feb. 16, 1850; p. 208.

which she showed not the slightest consciousness of pain, or of what was going on; just as the last incision was completed, she slipped from the chair in which she was sitting, and from the grasp of an athletic woman who was holding her, and fell apparently dead upon the floor; her face was of a deadly pallid and livid colour, and her lips, lobes of the ears, and finger-nails, of a deep purple hue; her eyes were fixed, pupils rather dilated; irides motionless; her limbs relaxed and perfectly still; no pulse to be felt at the wrist or carotids; and on placing my ear upon her chest, not the slightest sound of the heart's action or respiratory murmur was audible. The window was thrown open, and cold water, ammonia, &c., called for. I immediately perceived that all these would avail nothing, when it occurred to me that artificial respiration, by direct insufflation,—in the way, indeed, in which I have always used it for resuscitating still-born children, and which I learnt from my midwifery preceptor, the late Dr. Hugh Ley,—might possibly save her. Intervening a single fold of my pocket handkerchief, I placed my lips within hers, and breathed strongly into her mouth, at the same time closing her nostrils with the thumb and forefinger of my left hand, and pressing her larynx towards the spinal column with my right fingers and thumb, so as in some degree to close the œsophagus. At the fourth inspiration she gave a slight convulsive gasp, and this was soon followed by other and more regular respiratory efforts; her pulse returned, and her countenance soon resumed its natural colour, and I had the delightful relief to see her revive. After a few minutes, I proceeded to remove a diseased gland from the axilla; at this she cried out a little; though it was evident that the anæsthetic influence of the chloroform was still to a degree kept up, yet she was quite conscious of what was being done. . . . We all looked on the woman as irrecoverably dead, and were as much surprised as gratified to see her restored.”\*

A fourth case at Paris is given in the *Lancet* for Sept. 10, 1854.

The air which saved these patients after fresh air had failed was foul air: but it was air from the body, and therefore mesmerised. The superiority of animal heat, that is, of warmth from a living body over warmth from inanimate substances, was acknowledged by Sydenham. I beg to refer to my paper on the subject in *Zoist*, No. XXIII., p. 259.†

\* *Lancet*, March 2, 1850; p. 283.

† After quoting the Bible for the ancient prevalence of this opinion, I added, “Far more infants die among those brought up by hand than among the suckled. The child before birth exists in living mesmeric substances, and is nourished by living mesmerised fluids. After birth the place provided for it is its mother’s warm mesmerising bosom, and its nourishment is her warm mesmerised milk: and, whatever warmth and nourishment it may have without vital influence from both these sources, it usually droops.” See also my *Human Physiology*, p. 957.

*Deaths.*

Strong man—amputation of a finger-stump. Guy's Hospital. *Lancet*, July 6, 1850.

A baker. Stepney Union House. *Medical Times*, May 24, 1851.

A Mulatto on board the Hospital Thames Ship, the *Dreadnought*—removal of testes. *Lancet*, July 12, 1851.

Woman, 27 years old—obstructed rectum in cancer of the uterus. Chipping Norton. *Medical Times*, Dec. 6, 1851.

Lady, 36 years old—extraction of teeth. Strasburg. *Lancet*, Aug. 30, 1851.

[Dr. Crisp stated in the Medical Society of London, that he had read of 20 deaths from chloroform—the majority in young and sound individuals, and at the second inhalation.

Dr. Theophilus Thompson truly said that after chloroform many have declared “they have not recovered their full powers of mind and body for weeks and even for months.”

Dr. Chowne had seen most disastrous consequences; not merely immediate, but serious mental disorders.—*Medical Times*, March 6, 1852.]

Man, 23 years of age—aneurysm by anastomosis. St. Bartholomew's Hospital. *Lancet*, March 20, 1853.

A soldier—some operation. Bruges; and

Two more deaths unreported. Dr. Richardson in Medical Society of London. *Medical Times*, March 6, 1852.

A soldier, 27 years old—aneurysm of bone. Avignon. *Lancet*, Aug. 14, 1852.

Gentleman, 73 years old—lithotrity. *Medical Times*, Oct. 6, 1852.

A cattle-dealer—application of caustic to ulcers. Earl Town, Newcastle. *Lancet*, Oct. 23, 1852.

Man—fistula. Australia, Melbourne. *Medical Times*, Nov. 20, 1852.

Factory operative—malignant tumor on right leg. Newton Moor, near Hyde. *Lancet*, Jan. 1, 1853.

Woman, 28 years old—application of nitric acid to sores. University College Hospital. *Lancet*, March 26, 1853.

A young man, 24 years old—tumor on the chest. Paris. *Lancet*, June 4, 1853.

Man—prolapsus ani (had aneurysm of the aorta). Hôtel de Pitié, Paris. *Lancet*, June 18, 1853.

Strong man, 25 years old—tumor in cheek. Orleans. *Medical Times*, July 9, 1853.

- Man—operation for stricture. Edinburgh Infirmary. *Medical Times*, Oct. 15, 1853.
- Woman, 40 years old—strangulated umbilical hernia. University College Hospital. *Lancet*, Oct. 29, 1853.
- Woman, 22 years old—tumor in pudendum. St. Bartholomew's Hospital. *Ditto*, ditto.
- Woman—removal of left breast. Sheffield. *Medical Times*, March 4, 1854.
- Woman, 40 years old—uterine polypus. Paris. *Lancet*, April 29, 1854.
- Woman, 37 years old—disease of left breast. St. George's Hospital. *Lancet*, May 14, 1854.
- Young man, 18 years old—phimosis. Lock Hospital. *Ditto*, ditto.
- Woman—cancer of breast. *Association Journal*, May 26, 1854.

Probably this list presents a fraction only of the deaths which have occurred in the period. I chance to know of two more: the one mentioned by Mr. Tubbs at p. 118, and one which took place lately in a fine youth at Lausanne. He required a tooth to be extracted. His father, a doctor, insisted upon his inhaling chloroform. The poor lad implored his father not to insist upon it. The father did insist: the boy inhaled the chloroform, and died on the spot. A friend of mine heard the dismal toll of the bell sounding on the banks of the lake of Geneva.

On Nov. 12th of last year, p. 504, Mr. Spencer Wells, the editor of the *Medical Times*, closes an article on such deaths in these words:—"In the meantime, these recent deaths should teach us to continue researches for some anæsthetic agent which may confer upon mankind all the advantages derivable from chloroform without its dangers." Why then not quote the magnificent multitude in *The Zoist* of instances of operations rendered painless by mesmerism? He well knows why: and Mr. Churchill, his employer, well knows why. He thus speaks of mesmerism:—

"*The Sophistry of Empiricism*, pp. 84. London: 1853.' The book is a very good one;" "it is calculated to open the eyes of many victims to the chicanery which it exposes and denounces." "It attacks quackery *en masse*, and groups together mesmerism, with its subdivisions of phreno-mesmerism and clairvoyance, homœopathy, hydropathy, Coffinism, &c." "We are not in despair for the cause of legitimate medicine, which will still triumph when the absurdities of quackery are consigned to the shadows and the oblivion of the past."—*Medical Times*, July 23, 1853; p. 97.

I can unhappily still, in 1854, repeat what I wrote in January, 1850 :—

“The editors of the medical journals preserve a dead silence upon all the mighty mesmeric facts, medical and surgical, which occur and are reported in *The Zoist*.” “Their hearts are hardened: and they care not for the welfare of their fellow-creatures; madly believing that they will long be able, even while their own time lasts, to conceal from the medical profession what they know to be truths, and truths surpassing all other natural truths in both philosophical and practical importance—truths concerned with life, nay, with sentient, moral, and intellectual nature, with the cure of diseases, even the most afflicting, and with the alleviation, removal, and prevention of pain.”

Let me repeat what I wrote at the end of the fatal lists drawn up by me in that number of *The Zoist* :—

“I read these facts with real sorrow, because, in common with every mesmerist, I should have rejoiced to see inhalations always successful and innocent. That I speak the truth is proved by the conduct of us all from the first announcement of ether and chloroform,\* and during all the indecent exultation and insults of our adversaries.”†

---

II. An account of the “*Autobiography of Elizabeth Squirrell, together with an examination and defence of her statements relative to her sufferings, blindness, deafness, entire abstinence from food and drink during twenty-five weeks, and other extraordinary phenomena, &c.* By one of her Watchers.”

“Formerly such accounts would have been regarded as incredible, and as exceeding the bounds of possibility: but such conjectures can be of no avail against historical facts repeatedly attested and undeniably proved. Now that men are better acquainted with the wonderful flexibility of human organization, and with those marvellous powers which slumber concealed within it, they are less disposed to form light and hasty decisions on phenomena of this description.”—*Philosophy of History*. By Frederick Von Schlegel; p. 186.

We see no reason to call in question the leading points narrated in this publication. The history is certainly peculiar, and the alleged facts are of a singular nature: still somewhat similar cases have been met with before, abnormal and perplexing as they doubtless are. It is of course easy to get rid of such a difficulty, as is presented in this work, by

---

\* *Zoist*, No. XVI., p. 376. We were among the first to announce the anæsthetic powers of ether.

† *Zoist*, No. XVII., p. 44; XVIII., p. 187; XXII., p. 210. Mr. Liston, Professors Millar and Simpson, No. XXV., p. 102.

imputing credulity and imposture to those who have been mixed up in the events described; but the arcana of physiology are not learnt after the best manner by such rapid conclusions. We shall act more wisely and more humanely, if we rather devote some time to a study of the case,—even though our settled notions of belief may be somewhat disturbed by the result.

Elizabeth Squirrell, the subject of this work, was born at Shottisham, near Woodbridge, Suffolk, in 1838. At a very early age, her health seems to have given way. When she was only two years old, her right eye was affected by cataract, and the sight was gradually lost. At three years of age she was attacked by severe inflammation, which left her in a most debilitated state. When she was seven, she suddenly became very ill and was unable to leave home, many symptoms of consumption supervening. However, she recovered to a degree, and was able to attend school, though irregularly. At ten she was very tall for her age. Soon after she was eleven, a severe attack of illness came on, which, after slight intermissions at first, assumed a permanent form and continued for three years. Spinal weakness, fits of nervous hysteria and of epilepsy, pains in her back, and at the top of the brain, heaviness over the eyebrows, spasmodic contractions, paralysis, and palpitations of the heart, formed part of what she suffered. Her first medical attendant pronounced her case to be hopeless. The second agreed with him that her case was too much for their skill, and that they had never seen anything like it before. The third, in addition, thought that she had amaurosis, and would probably lose the sight of the remaining eye. As all the three medical men failed in procuring for her any effectual remedy, the parents were advised to place Elizabeth in the Ipswich Hospital: there she remained six weeks, but returned home weaker than she went in. She soon became rapidly worse, and her end seemed to be approaching fast.

“I had been home,” she tells us in her autobiography, “little more than a week before I quite lost the power to swallow mechanically. I was eating a baked apple, when I suddenly felt the muscles of my throat contract, and they would not permit me to receive the apple. We were greatly alarmed, and means were resorted to to expel the rigidity, but to no purpose: disease raged on, and in less than ten days my jaws became immoveably closed. Here was new cause for alarm: but I had only partly passed through my ordeal of suffering. Of course, I could partake of no food by an ordinary process: all the nourishment I received was from the insertion of liquids through my teeth, some of which the absorbents

took up. Weeks passed over, and to the astonishment of all I still survived. For the first twelve weeks that I had the misfortune to crave food, I was rapacious; and yet was unable to take a morsel. At one time this craving was so importunate, that, as by impulse, I would rub food against my teeth, in hopes to extract some particle of its nutriment."

Her sight, she says, soon became materially affected: her hearing too was very defective and lessened exceedingly in a day or two, till suddenly, as by a stroke, she became perfectly blind,—in addition to the loss of the senses of hearing and of smelling, and to the inability of separating her teeth. She continued in a state of lock-jaw for twenty-one weeks: at the end of which she gave indications of a revival of the flexibility of her jaws, and soon had the ability to open them, though with much pain. Her mouth and tongue were covered with small festering sores, and in places flayed. It was quite painful to receive nourishment or even to moisten her glands. For five weeks of the time during which she craved food, her sufferings had been so great, that she could only endure them by being in perpetual motion, and her parents kept her so by rocking her on her couch. After that the craving for food ceased, she lay for a whole month in a kind of cataleptic fit, as rigid as if she had been a corpse, and unable even to have her head turned upon the pillow.

She remained, in short, in a state of lethargy or half consciousness, till, at the end of twenty-one weeks, she was relieved from the contraction of her jaws. She was of course at that time exceedingly weak and emaciated, and loathed solid food, and could only receive into her stomach fluid, and that only of one kind, milk boiled and sweetened with sugar. As the summer advanced, she revived very much: but with the autumn, she made no progress: and at the approach of winter she relapsed considerably, and gave symptoms of deeply-rooted disease: she still subsisted only on milk, taking it in her mouth and ejecting it again, except what might have passed imperceptibly down, for nothing could pass the œsophagus by a muscular action.

During the winter she expectorated daily, and cast up at times large quantities of blood, suffering acute pains in the lungs and liver. In the spring, however, she was greatly relieved by an inflammatory gathering upon her chest, which at first was of an intense heat, and extremely painful. But as it subsided, her sufferings lessened, and she appeared better. But though this relieved her pain, it was but the forerunner of an unaccountable phenomenon, viz., that of long abstinence from food and drink: for as this gathering

left her, she gradually lost the desire to take, and finally abstained from, all nourishment (she tells us) *for twenty-five weeks*, during nearly all of which time the ordinary secretions ceased entirely.

She then tells us, that during this long abstinence she never felt the natural sensations of hunger or thirst; that this painful protuberance on her chest had been succeeded by an icy coldness which kept increasing; and that though the lower extremities were very attenuated, and the abdomen quite collapsed, she was on the whole not so emaciated as might have been expected, but retained much of her former vigor, and even looked blooming, though delicate. Neither was there the slightest excoriation.

She continued, then, as we have before stated, in this deplorable condition for twenty-five weeks. About the end of that period mesmerism was strongly recommended to her, and its application was adopted, and her system was soon very powerfully affected by it, and a change produced. Miss Squirrell also considered that she derived benefit from homœopathic treatment. She first began to experience an internal warmth, and a sort of energy about the stomach; and after a time she felt a desire to moisten her mouth. By dint of repeated persuasions she attempted to take part of the yolk of an egg well beaten with milk: but this induced spasmodic fits of sickness and severe suffering. Gradually, however, she mastered her repugnance, and was able to swallow a few mouthfuls. Sago became her chief article of diet: and of fruit she soon became excessively fond. By degrees her health improved; still she was not sensible of any improvement in her physical powers; she could neither sit unsupported, nor walk nor stand. Neither was she able to see or to hear: and of the food that she took into her mouth, she obtained the liquid, and rejected the residue. Still, she says herself, that though she continued to have no feeling of thirst and no desire to drink, and that when she took food, it was rather from a sense of faintness than from a sensation of hunger, nevertheless her condition was greatly ameliorated by her increased power of endurance consequent on the nourishment she received.

The editor adds in a note, that since the autobiographical account was written, Elizabeth Squirrell had undergone considerable change. She had been able to take a larger amount and a greater variety of food; and the nutritive system had greatly improved; but she had gained little or no strength in the lower part of her body, being still without power even to sit up in bed.



On the 3rd of May, 1853, she first expressed herself as thirsty; and on the 15th she first partook of bread food; but still without the power to swallow. We have no details of later date that can be relied on; but we understand that the patient has rather improved in health and strength than otherwise, though the main features of her illness remain much the same.

Now, waiving, for the present, the consideration of sundry collateral topics introduced into the autobiographical narrative, and of certain other alleged and most marvellous facts appended to it, let us first ask, how much of the above story is true? That Elizabeth Squirrell had been for a very long time seriously ill, there can be no doubt. She had been under the care of several medical men, both in the Ipswich Hospital and out of it, without deriving any benefit. Her sufferings and sickness are, then, a patent fact: but this alleged abstinence from all food for twenty-five long weeks is a different question. Let us first examine into the possibility or probability of such an event before we enter upon the other points in her story.

In the first place, the editor of this book mentions that there are several cases of a similar nature on record, which circumstance increases the probability of the truth of the one in question. Dr. George Moore, in his work on the *Use of the Body in relation to the Mind*, says,—

“Notwithstanding the detection of many fasting impostors, we are bound to confess that the power of continuing a long period without food is not incompatible with what we know of vital possibility. Dr. Willan attended a patient who took only a little water, flavoured with orange-juice, for sixty-one days; but more marvellous still, cases of abstinence from solid food, for ten, fifteen, or eighteen years, are unimpeachably testified.” (p. 311.)

In the *Transactions of the Royal Philosophical Society of London for the year 1777*, Sir John Pringle communicates the case of Janet MacLeod, which in many of its features bears a remarkable resemblance to that before us. Dr. Good in his writings has referred to this case as meriting particular attention.

In the *London Encyclopædia*, published in 1829, under the article “Abstinence,” several cases of a similar character are recorded, with the names of the authorities appended,—viz., Petrus de Abano, Joubertus, Krantzius, and Hildanus. Silvius mentions three cases, one of a young woman in Spain, one in Narbonne, and one in Germany. All these writers, it should be added, belong to a date far back: but several

more modern instances are subjoined, viz., that of Gilbert Jackson of Scotland, in 1716; that of John Ferguson, in 1724; that of Mary Thomas of Wales, in 1770, related by Peanant; and that of a country-girl, in Osnaburck, in 1798, who for nearly four years abstained from all food and drink. This last case is related by the celebrated Hufeland. We can also refer our readers to Elliotson's *Physiology*, pp. 53, 54, &c. :—

"If abstinence," he says, "is not forced upon the system, but is absolutely a part of disease, it may, like suspension of respiration in morbid states of insensibility,\* and like immense doses of powerful medicines in various diseased states, be borne with wonderful indifference; and this occurs chiefly among females. But the most extraordinary case that I recollect, stated upon unquestionable authority, is that of a young Scotchwoman, who laboured under an anomalous nervous affection, and, excepting that on two occasions she swallowed some water, received no nourishment whatever for eight years. She passed urine enough twice a week to wet a shilling, and for three years had no intestinal evacuation. (*Phil. Trans.*, vol. lxxii.) In a remarkable instance of imperfect abstinence during fifty years, the woman voided a little feculent matter like a piece of roll-tobacco, or a globule of sheep's dung, but once a year, and that always in March, for sixteen years. (*Edinb. Med. and Phys. Essays*, vol. vi.) It would be interesting to examine the changes induced in the air by the lungs and skin of such patients.

"Pouteau mentions the case of one of his patients, a young lady thirteen years of age, who was affected with convulsions and insensibility at a certain period, generally every day, sometimes not quite so often, and great irritability of stomach, lived eighteen months,

---

\* "An example of the impunity with which a long exclusion of air may be borne, when the system is in a morbid nervous state, may appear to advantage by the side of similar illustrations of the deprivation of food. 'The story of Ann Green,' says the Rev. Mr. Derham, 'executed at Oxford, Dec. 14, 1650, is still well remembered among the seniors there: she was hang'd by the Neck near half an Hour, some of her Friends thumping her on the Breast, others hanging with all their Weight upon her Legs, sometimes lifting her up and then pulling her down again with a sudden Jirk, thereby the sooner to dispatch her out of her Pain, as the printed Account of her informs us. After she was in her Coffin, being observ'd to breathe, a lusty Fellow stamp'd with all his Force on her Breast and Stomach, to put her out of Pain. But, by the Assistance of Dr. Peity, Dr. Willis, Dr. Bathurst, and Dr. Clark, she was again brought to Life. I myself saw her many Years after, between which Time and the Date of her Execution she had, as I am inform'd, borne several Children.' (*Physico-Theology*, p. 156.) Her *nervous insensibility* appears from another writer, who states that 'she neither remembered how the fetters were knocked off, how she went out of prison, when she was turned off the ladder, whether any psalm was sung or not, nor was she sensible of any pain that she could remember. What is most remarkable is, that she came to herself as if she had awakened out of a sleep, not recovering the use of her speech by slow degrees, but in a manner altogether, beginning to speak just where she left off on the gallows.' (Plott's *History of Oxford*.")

and grew more than two inches and a half, on syrup of capillaire and cold water. Here, the abstinence was not part of the disease, but the extraordinary state of the system enabled it to bear the abstinence. (*Euvres Posthumes*, t. i., p. 27.)\*

"For every example of extraordinary abstinence among females we have a counterpart in voraciousness among males. When the appetite is so great, it is seldom nice; and not only all animals in all states are devoured, but glass, flints, metals, sand, wood, &c. A Frenchman, named Tarare, and described by Drs. Percy and Laurent, in some measure from their own observation, will form a good contrast to the Scotch girl. When a lad, he once swallowed a large basket of apples, after some person had agreed to pay for them; and at another time a quantity of flints, corks, and similar substances. The colic frequently compelled him to apply at the Hôtel Dieu," &c.

It would appear, then, from the above collection of instances, that the power of continuing a long period without food is not incompatible with what we know of vital possibility. The case of Elizabeth Squirrell is very far from being the first of the kind on record. However inexplicable may have been her alleged condition upon any physiological principle with which we are acquainted, still similar facts have been encountered, and their reality established upon evidence

---

\* Dr. Coitelli, an Italian physician now in London, has mentioned to us a case of long sleep which occurred in Italy about twenty years ago, and the account of which is detailed in the monthly *Annali di Medicina di Milano*.

"The patient was a young woman about 20 years old, of extremely nervous temperament, with very variable health from her infancy, and whose female function had been irregular and imperfect. After some vexations she became weaker and was seized with paroxysms of trembling that lasted many hours. She was treated with opiates: dyspepsia took place, and in a short time she lost all appetite, and was unable to chew or swallow any kind of solid food. Afterwards every function became as inactive as can be conceived: she fell into a state of *stupor*, or something like sleep, that lasted for nearly three years. In all this time she lay constantly in bed without motion or speech, and many functions were suspended—menstruation, secretions, digestion, &c. She was like a dead body, and life only shewed itself by slow breathing and by the pulse. The latter was also slow and small, but rather equal in the beats. The sleep all this time was never completely broken; but every day, and sometimes only every other day, before sunset, she moved the muscles of the face and of the arms, and inarticulately pronounced some words, asking for *water*. This was supplied to her lips by a sponge or other similar means. A few ounces a day were sufficient, and this was the *only substance* which entered into her body during the whole time of the phenomena. The drowsy state passed away after some sudden changes in the weather; when she was able to speak. She was however incapable of explaining whether she suffered or not, and she had no recollection of what had passed in her or about her. After her recovery, her general health became better than before the lethargic state had commenced. In my opinion the disease presented by Elizabeth Squirrell last year has some analogy with this.

"The natural winter sleep of hibernating animals which pass so long a time without injury, sleeping and taking no food or drink, throws light upon those states which in the human being are morbid."

of an unimpeachable character. Here, therefore, one difficulty—and a most important one—is surmounted: and it now remains to be considered whether there can be adduced in this particular case adequate testimony in favour of its credibility. Irrespective of the statement of the girl herself, and of her parents and friends, have we the corroborative evidence of competent and conscientious persons, upon whose affirmations reliance can be placed?

It seems that three separate and systematic “watchings” of the case were instituted: the results of which were as follows. The first watch was carried on by two females for eight days. They declare that they prosecuted their duty most vigilantly; that the child took not the smallest quantity of food and drink; and that there was no secretion from the kidneys or bowels; and that they were perfectly satisfied with the result. The second watch was not so satisfactory, and gave rise to a great deal of excitement. It was appointed to take charge of the case for eight days, but terminated in five days, in consequence of some circumstances which were considered as evidence of fraud. But there was no proof whatever that the child took either food or drink. The members of the watch seem to have quarrelled with each other; and their differences broke up their attendance. The third watch however, was the important one, and extended over a period of *fourteen days*. This watch originated at the request of the parents; it consisted of a number of respectable persons,—three of whom were women, one acting as nurse; and this book, containing the history of the case, was written by one of the watchers. At the commencement of the watch a thorough search was made of the bed on which the child was lying, and of all its appendages, and during the examination she was removed to another bed. The parents were not allowed to enter the room during the whole period of the watch; and the bed was examined daily by the females in attendance. We have the testimonies and letters of the several watchers appended: all seem perfectly satisfied with the result; and we can scarcely conceive how a stricter scrutiny could be established, or more decisive evidence be obtained in favour of the case. The names and residences of twelve watchers are given: their attendance was afforded at considerable inconvenience to themselves: they had no motive nor interest in the matter; and we must regard their testimony as conclusive.

There is one very curious fact connected with her condition, which this young girl mentions in her narrative.

“As soon as I refrained from touching any food or liquid with

my lips, I felt, as it were, an instinctive need of water in some way; and all through my abstinence I was frequently applying it to my face, hands and arms; and it has been calculated that upon an average I absorbed four ounces each day by its application. . . . I would appear sometimes as if overcome with exhaustion, and on water being brought I would use it, and feel instantly exhilarated and renovated. . . . But afterwards, from the time that I began to take nourishment I had no desire but rather a repugnance to water, except for the ordinary purposes of cleansing."

This fact strongly corresponds with a statement which the editor of this book quotes from Carpenter's *Physiology*, proving thereby the close analogy that exists between all these cases.

"It is a fact now well established that when the amount of fluid in the body has been greatly reduced, absorption of water through the skin may take place to a considerable amount. There is a case recorded by Dr. Currie of a patient who suffered under obstruction of the gullet of such a kind that no nutriment, either solid or fluid, could be received into the stomach, and who was supported for some weeks by immersion of his body in milk and water, and by the introduction of food into the lower end of the intestines."

There are also other cases of a somewhat analogous nature recorded in medical journals; which tend to make it appear possible that the occasional use of fluid is sufficient to sustain life during protracted abstinence from food; and in the case of Elizabeth Squirrel, there is no doubt she imbibed a considerable quantity of fluid, though not by the ordinary channel.

There is another fact, recorded in these pages, so characteristic of the medical profession, that we cannot forbear from referring to it. It may probably be asked, What did the gentlemen of the faculty, resident in the district, say to this case? What part did they take in the inquiry? What opinionous did they promulgate as to its reality? Our author says,

"A nobleman in the neighbourhood, who felt an interest in the case, and who wished to arrive at a knowledge of its facts, offered to defray the expences of a medical investigation. This challenge was communicated to the physicians of Ipswich by a gentleman of high respectability, in a letter to the Editor of the *Ipswich Journal* signed "Charitas." The proposal was, that any physician in Ipswich, or all in consultation, should attend the case and make their report; and that their professional fees and every other expense should be paid. To this no public reply was made, but a letter from one of the physicians was addressed to "Charitas," in which he expressed his willingness to attend Elizabeth Squirrel professionally; *he was immediately requested to do so, and to call in any*

of his medical brethren. A letter, however, was shortly after received by "Charitas" from this gentleman, in which he said that having consulted with other members of the profession, and finding they were not disposed to attend the case, he wished also to decline doing so; and here the matter ended."

How thoroughly professional! and how consistent with all that their brethren elsewhere have done in regard to mesmerism! They trembled at the approach of truth, and hid their faces under the shelter of a safe and ignominious ignorance. The men of Ipswich, says the author, saw a disagreeable something looming in the distance as the penalty of inquiry; and so inquiry must be abandoned, and truth neglected, and the unhappy patient live on a victim to slander and misrepresentation. We feel ashamed at recording such cowardice on the part of educated men; but it must be remembered that to "*be just and fear not*" is no portion of the instruction that is given in our present medical schools.

The exaltation of the faculties, which is so frequently attendant on cases of fasting and abstinence, and in cases of peculiar disease, has been strikingly developed in this instance.

The brain of Elizabeth Squirrell exhibited a precocious condition, and some of her senses displayed a most abnormal acuteness. Her letters, and some miscellaneous writings in prose and verse, which are introduced into the volume, together with her autobiographical narrative, are extraordinary productions, when we take her age into consideration. In her mesmerised state, too, she responded in a convincing manner to experiments made with the magnet, crystal, silver and gold; and shewed the magnetic attraction and sympathy very clearly, and amongst other phenomena she exhibited at times a kind of partial clairvoyance.

We now arrive at a point in this history which has done more to prevent its reception in the world than all the above perplexing statements of abstinence and fasting,—that is, the professed communication of Elizabeth Squirrell with the spirit-world. The writer of this book says, that she is perfectly sincere in her professions, he has no doubt. Her prevailing impression is, that she is attended by a guardian angel. "I am no fanatic," she says, "this is not the working of an over-heated brain. I see these things; I do not imagine them,—I see them." But an intercourse with the invisible world is not the most difficult or mysterious part in the story; by far the strangest point is the alleged ringing or pealing of a glass without contact. The glass, it should be added, is an ordinary half-sized tumbler; and we will now give the girl's own account of the matter.

"I had had in the morning of the day in which it was first heard a choice rose brought to me, and being anxious to preserve it from decay, I requested a young friend who assisted in nursing me to fetch me a tumbler of water, that I might place it in. After a few hours the rose faded, and I wanted more water. The glass was emptied and left standing by my side. Towards evening, as my mother was leaving the room, she heard a sound as if I were touching the glass with something soft—producing a clear soft tone. She came to my side and inquired if I had touched the glass: I replied in the negative, upon which she listened with breathless attention, and in less than two minutes she distinctly heard it again twice or thrice. Convinced now that no earthly agent or hand was in communication with the glass, she was at liberty to attribute it to other and supernatural causes. Certain it is that I knew that it was rung by an invisible agency, and connected with my intercourse with spirits. . . . I had indisputable evidence here that a guardian spirit was hovering over, and did act upon that material object in order to make us aware of its presence, or to rescue me from what must, without doubt, have soon occasioned my death."

Miss Squirrel then gives an account of the comfort and delight which she experiences from these spiritual visitations. The visions produced in her, she says, calmness and self-possession. The author mentions that at times a most ecstatic smile played upon her countenance, she seemed indescribably happy, and said, "O! if you had seen that beautiful angelic form." She would continue in this state of ecstasy for an hour, and during that time her pains appeared to leave her. In short, the ringing of the glass and the presence of the guardian angel were her solace and happiness during her long and severe trial.

Now in examining these two points, it is clear that we must make a broad distinction between them. Though apparently connected together, and most especially so by Elizabeth Squirrel herself, the alleged visitation of spirits, and the fact of the ringing of the glass are two independent and separate things. They may indeed be both the product of cerebral disease, but otherwise there is no necessary connection between them. And we therefore do not agree with the patient when she says, that whoever believes the one (the sounding of the tumbler) cannot reject the other (her intercourse with spirits).

We think that we have a very intelligible clue to the latter point, afforded by the autobiography itself. Elizabeth there tells us that from her very earliest age she possessed a contemplative, serious, and imaginative mind. When she was only six years old, she lost one of her best friends.

"The dear girl was her chosen confidante, and the heroine of

her tales. The keen anguish with which she looked on, as they deposited her spiritless remains in their last narrow home, will never be effaced from her memory." . . . "I returned from her interment wonderingly : I sat down musingly : I fanned my retentive faculties to give me back our moments spent together : I glanced over her life. Was her conduct such as would mould her for a better life in the glorious *spirit-land*? Was her spirit one of light? I thought how differently must her spirit appear divested of its earthly garb. I wished to be with her, and *I have often, as I walked alone, spoken to her, calling her by her once familiar name.* It is true I have received no response; but the *echo* of her radiant being upon my soul has sufficed me."

The reader who remembers that these imaginary conversations took place when the little girl was only in her seventh year, will perceive that a very natural foundation was being laid for her subsequent intercourse with spirit-land.

Again she tells us that she *loved much*, when she was quite a child, to *gaze on the bodies of the departed*; and while so doing, feelings the most strangely delightful would pervade her mind. Some of her most *exquisite moments* were those which she spent with the dead, or when she visited their graves. She felt quite assured too that death had a *visible form* to the eyes of the departing. Her reading also was of one particular character. She cared little for play or childish amusements; but was delighted with Bunyan's unrivalled dream; and after the perusal of Fox's *Martyrs*, the sufferings of the victims were too much for her sensitive imagination, and made her at night, the subject of painful nervous attacks.

The death of her grandfather, the good and pious old pastor of the Baptist chapel, seems also to have produced a strong effect. He died before she had terminated her seventh year; and his spiritual dialogues with her evidently wrought a lasting impression.

When she was only eleven, she says that she endeavoured to inhale the atmosphere of abstruse subjects, and was 'fond' of reading about the *invisible world*, the *nature and work of angels*, and other kindred topics. And at this age, she says that "she cherished the possibility of man holding intercourse with spirits. It was an intuitive conviction.

"I distinctly believed spirits to communicate with man, and that space only intervened between our place and their state, where spirits were nearly connected with and were able to exert an influence over men and matter; and during my state, at the time of which I am now speaking, *I more than ever desired to be the medium of some communication of the kind.*"



And there are other passages of the same character in the autobiography and in her journals.

Here, then, we possess a simple key to this part of the mystery. A young girl in a most sickly and delicate condition of body, for years confined to her bed or sofa, from her earliest childhood of a reflective and serious cast of mind, adopts the strong persuasion that spirits are commissioned to visit and guard the human race; and therefore, feeling that angels "of every virtue must be around her," she desires most intensely to be the medium of communication between them and this world. Her wishes, therefore, and habits of thought and conversation go all together, and unite continuously on the same topic; and when we add to this confession from her own pen two facts which are mentioned by an experienced phrenologist, viz., that Veneration and the powers of Ideality and Marvellousness are the most prominently developed organs in her head, we obtain most interesting confirmation of a scientific character for our conclusions. We see at once how this cerebral illusion has by degrees taken growth. It is not necessary, as some persons imagine, that in order to have this state induced, the brain of the patient should be worked up into a feverish or overheated condition, or that she should be living in a species of diseased excitement. Such a notion is a mistake. Experience shews that these delusions are consistent with the greatest calmness and self-possession. Constant contemplation and mental abstraction, or in other words, the continuous dwelling of the mind, on one favorite topic, especially when the person is very young and very ill, and also left much to herself and her own day dreams, will bestow a quasi-reality upon anything. There is no creed, however strange,—there is no creation of the fancy, however extravagant, respecting which a firm belief cannot be generated if it be made the besetting subject of reading, of study, of conversation, of thought. In such a case, the solitary invalid can bring herself to see, to hear, and to imagine anything. This is a physiological fact, which all experience establishes. The brain becomes morbidly influenced, but is not thereby necessarily over-excited or inflamed. A deceptive serenity may systematically prevail: and it is this very serenity which imposes upon the patient and her friends, and conducts them into an involuntary error on the subject of spiritual manifestations,—as has been in this instance the case with Elizabeth Squirrell.

It is really a curious physiological fact, when we consider the very opposite results upon the human brain, which this inordinately indulged love of communication with the so-

called spirit world, is apt to induce. With some persons, especially if they have been long the victims of ill health or ill usage, and have drunk largely from the cup of earthly sorrow, this fancied converse with ideal beings has a soothing and consolatory effect. A tranquillized feeling of happiness is imparted to them for the moment, and they forget their pains and their afflictions during the supposed presence of their beloved associates. Such for example was the case with this poor suffering girl at Ipswich. But these instances are rare and most exceptional, and certainly not to be quoted as examples for encouragement. When they do occur, the effects perhaps may be said to be innocuous in great degree to the parties themselves, whatever may be their tendencies to those around them; but innocuous or not, these cases form, as we have said, an exception. With a large proportion of these devotees to spiritual conferences, the results are most prejudicial, and in some instances dangerous and deplorable: and we therefore feel it a solemn duty to take every occasion of warning our readers upon the subject. The brains of many persons, who persevere in this apparently intoxicating pursuit, become in a short time as much inflamed and overthrown as if they were under the influence of opium or inebriating drinks. Their thoughts are so engrossed by this new absorbing topic, that they cease to be rational and companionable on any other. Such a feverish action is introduced into their system, that some of the worst passions and feelings, which had been perhaps latent in them for years, become developed or drawn out. They become often coarse, offensive, intractable and intolerant, and deeming themselves privileged personages are careless of the feelings of their friends, and neglectful of the usages of society: and if they do not always end in being inmates of an asylum, are in too many instances slenderly removed from a state in which admission would be desirable. We speak advisedly and also sorrowfully, when we speak thus strongly; some sad instances have lately come to our knowledge: and we shall therefore never lose an opportunity of lifting up our voices against this melancholy though now popular delusion. We are well aware that in taking this course we shall offend many whom it would grieve us to lose, and subject ourselves and some of our friends (who are not responsible for our facts or our opinions) to vulgar letters and flippant and pitiful expostulations: for this we are prepared. *The Zoist* was not established to speak smooth things and propagate deceits, but on all and every occasion to tell the truth, and the whole truth, and to "shame the doctors and the devil."

To return, however, to Elizabeth Squirrell, we repeat that we possess in her case an adequate solution as to the origin and nature of her spiritual intercourse; and that there is no reason why she should be taxed with imposture or deception in the matter: but in the next place, what are we disposed to affirm in regard to the ringing of the glass, which we mentioned above? This, it will be seen, is a distinct question, and one far more difficult: and here, therefore, we must proceed with every caution. First, is the thing true? In other words, is it a fact, that a tumbler, without being touched, has at different and repeated periods given forth sounds in the presence of this sick girl? We must admit, that the evidence in favour of the fact, as stated in this book, is very valid and trustworthy, if it be not absolutely conclusive, which we do not say that it is not. The ringing has been heard by several impartial and independent persons, by visitors, by sceptics, by parties who had gone specially to the house to sift, and if need be, to expose the trick or misconception. More than forty persons have heard it. One gentleman of unimpeachable veracity has heard it upwards of fifty times. The writer of the book has heard it on several occasions, and felt certain, he says, that the sound proceeded from the glass without the agency of the child or her parents. Other watchers make the same declaration. Any one was at liberty to handle the glass, to place it upon books, or hold the girl's hands at the time. Some persons thought that an instrument was concealed in the room or under the bed-clothes, which caused the sound: but investigations soon disposed of that notion. The glass, it should be added, stood on a table near the girl's bed; and she says towards the close of her biography, that the last time it was heard was about six weeks back (at the time she was writing) and that it had not sounded since. We cannot, of course, affirm anything ourselves as to the competency, or caution, or veracity of the witnesses: we are merely judging of the evidence as exhibited in the book: still it appears to be a case in which common sense aided by honesty of purpose would be equal to the making all needful examination; and as every proper precaution appears to have been employed, we cannot reject the account as too monstrous for consideration.

This ringing of the glass is certainly very analogous to some of the stories which have been reported in regard to table-rappings, apart from the assumed intervention of spirits. Upon these table-rappings our opinions are known. We have detected gross and impudent imposture on the part of the Medium, and we have exposed the vulgarities and ridicu-

lous ignorance of the incorporeal representatives of those, who in this life were highly educated and intellectual: but we have never denied the possibility that there might be occasionally evolved some material agent or force of an invisible nature. Upon this subject, while we are not ashamed to confess that we know next to nothing, our language has from the first been studiously cautious and undogmatic. In our earliest paper on this topic, while we denounced the mendacious trickery of the spiritual part of the business, we expressly added, that "on real electric phenomena we gave no opinion."\* And to this view of the question, we still adhere. We admit, with certain writers, that several most extraordinary occurrences are recorded on trustworthy evidence, which are only explicable on some theory of an external force proceeding from the human organism, but we must wait for further information and evidence, before we can venture on an hypothesis. Our readers are aware, that it is not our custom to exhibit a politic circumspection, when we see our way and are sure of our facts; and they will therefore appreciate our present reserve in a question on this difficulty. At the same time, we are not unwilling to entertain the subject, and invite the opinions of our friends. The Rev. Mr. Townshend, who is entitled to be regarded as an authority, has in his recent admirable work, observed, that for certain

"Singular noises there have been found abnormal reasons. In Hibbert on *Apparitions*, it is allowed that many of the mysterious noises in old houses, such as rappings, bell-rings, sounds like people walking about, and even displacements of furniture, incontestably proceed from the disengagement of gases from the bodies of the dying or the dead. . . . In a book called *Bealing's Bells*, to which the Quaker poet, Bernard Barton, has given the sign manual of his belief in some excellent verses, are some very curious accounts of bells, which, untouched by hands, have rung unaccountably from the chambers of sick persons. If we apply these things to the solution of spirit-rapping, we shall be immediately struck by observing that the mediums are often persons of disordered health and unstrung nerves, (circumstances of their constitution which listening for spirits is not likely to improve), and hence we may conjecture that some irregular disengagement of zoogen from their system causes these abnormal rappings. . . . Furthermore, rappings of abnormal character may be both heard and created, *under the influence of mere temporary indisposition*, by those who have no belief in spirit-rapping. Two instances of this kind have come under my cognizance. . . . And the readers of the *Seherin Von Prevorst* will

---

\* Our express words were: "we write of that only which we have witnessed: on real electric phenomena we give no opinion."—*Zoist*, Vol. XI., p. 96.

remember proofs being given of the power of the somnambulist, rendered so by sickness, to produce by will and cerebral action effects like rapping. . . . These facts aid our thesis, that there is some connexion between the restless state of the brain and the rappings—and that cerebral excitement produces in rare instances, abnormal and audible effects.”\*

The author of this work, too, upon E. Squirrell, refers to sundry other instances of this character, especially to the well-known case of Angelique Cotton, which was investigated by M. Arago. This ringing of the bell, therefore, evidently falls under the same head: and what strengthens the resemblance is the fact mentioned by E. Squirrell herself, that the sound ceased about the time that her health began to improve under the mesmeric treatment. This statement evidently accords with the opinion propounded by Mr. Townshend. At any rate we confess that at present we see no other rational explanation of the phenomenon, and that a *prima facie* case is established in its favour, unless indeed we adopt the monstrous alternative that “all men are liars,” and that no evidence, however competent or numerous, is to be received in contradiction to our own limited and partial experience.†

We cannot close our account of this curious history without adverting to that extract from one of the most philosophical writers of our age, which we have placed at the head of this article. Frederick Von Schlegel is there referring to the facts, so well-known in India, of the abstraction or mental absorption which is accomplished by the Yogis. The Indian Yogi is a hermit or penitent who, abstracted in mystic or intellectual contemplation, remains often for years fixed immovably to a single spot. Such a phenomenon, says he, is most strange, and appears totally incredible and almost impossible, although it has been repeatedly attested by eye-witnesses, and is a well ascertained historical fact. In the Indian forests and deserts, and in the neighbourhood of holy places of pilgrimage, there are many hundreds of these hermits. Now, adds Schlegel, the reports, as to what these hermits do and suffer, would be rejected upon *a priori* reasoning, as facts exceeding the bounds of possibility; but such conjectures can be of no avail now, since men are better acquainted with the wonderful flexibility of human organization. We know, says he, the marvellous powers which slumber concealed within it. We know it well, we may ourselves

---

\* See *Mesmerism Proved True*, by the Rev. C. Hare Townshend, p. 197, &c.

† In Cardan's Life, just published, there is an account of some noises and rappings, which agrees with what is suggested above. Vol. i., p. 162.

add, and we may apply the language of the philosophic German to the case, which we have been just examining, of Elizabeth Squirrell. But alas! though we say that we know it well,—how few practically remember it! If an unusual phenomenon presents itself in a neighbourhood, a cry of imposture and of knavery is at once raised. A system of cruel persecution is permitted to prevail. Those, who by their profession ought to understand the real nature of the event, and by their acquaintance with physiology could throw light upon the subject, stand aloof in nervous timidity, and with the modern Esculapian discretion affect a total ignorance of the details. Alas! if they would but examine,—and if they would but speak, what human misery might they obviate. A poor girl, for example, in humble circumstances, is visited by a severe and lengthened affliction. The trial of herself and of her parents is more than usually painful. The phenomena, attendant upon the trial, add to the misery, and yet at the same time increase the interest of the case. A storm of indignation and of passion gathers round the cottage. The victim of disease is punished for the anomalies of nature. Her parents, members for several years of the Baptist church, are *expelled*, contrary to all practice and all justice, from the congregation, without any intimation of the proceedings and without any opportunity of defence. Their trade, too, and their very means of subsistence are withdrawn from them,—and their lives,—and the life of the helpless bedridden sufferer are placed in danger by the threats of the deluded populace. Those, who by their attendance on the sick girl, might have silenced the cry and stopped the persecution, connive with secret satisfaction at what goes on. Though it was proposed to them, that their professional fees should be paid, and every expense defrayed, if they would but attend the case and make a report, they decline to do good on such conditions. Better that the poor girl should suffer and her parents be ruined, than that their practice and position should be placed in jeopardy. What might the public answer, if they told the truth, and recommended mercy! And yet these are the men, who claim for themselves a monopoly in the art of healing, and who call out for penalties and for acts of parliament, against those who presume to dispense with certain items of their *Pharmacopæia*, and to deviate from the canons of their college. These are the men, who though they dare not enter in themselves, endeavour to lock the door of nature against those who do. A mesmeriser in their vocabulary is only another term for heretic or quack; and though such heretics may not now be burned, they may at least be

blackened to their heart's content. And such, we understand, was the humane fashion with which the practitioners of the district responded to the proposal presented to them. We blush while we quote the tale. But though these priests and Levites of the medical temple passed over to the other side, when they were told that a fellow-creature was left, as it were, half-dead; there were sundry good Samaritans in the vicinity who visited their neglected sister in her affliction, pouring oil and wine into her wounds. Foremost of these was the Rev. Mr. Norton, incumbent of an adjoining parish, who acted the true part of a Christian minister, and was regular in his attendance at Shottisham for many weeks, giving the poor girl the comfort of his sympathy and support. We fancy, too, that he published a small pamphlet on the subject, which however, we have not had the advantage of seeing. Many other friends and neighbours also did their utmost to stem the tide of persecution that set in against this unfortunate family. Some benevolent ladies from a distance were frequent in their visits. And among those, who in the latter stage of the proceedings interested themselves in the case, may be mentioned, as we understand, the Rev. Mr. Cobbold, Rector of Wortham, Suffolk,—the well-known author of many popular works,—and who has also, it is said, been successful in several remarkable cures by mesmerism, with the history of which, it is much to be regretted that he does not favour the world. By the aid of some of these kind friends, the family was enabled to remove from Shottisham to Ipswich: and the father procured some fresh means of employment. How the poor sick girl has been latterly proceeding, we do not know, and should be glad to learn. The last reliable intelligence that we received was as far back as February last, at which time no particular change in the case had taken place.

We ought to add that the author of this little book has executed his task very admirably. He exhibits an extensive range of reading, and much general and special knowledge of the subject. He calls himself "one of the watchers;" but it is to be regretted that he has not given his name, which would have added strength to his statement, and silenced the calumny of the malignant. Perhaps his name may be well-known in that part of Suffolk, where the events, which he narrates, took place: but it is not known to us; and its omission detracts from the value of a work, which in so many respects is full and satisfactory.

---

III. *Great benefit of Mesmerism in a case of Indigestion, Debility of Brain, and generally impaired health: and in one of "flow of blood to the head."* By JOHN RAWE, Esq., of Hampstead, late of Cornwall.\* Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

"——— Street, London,

"Oct. 23, 1853.

"Dear Sir,—I beg to thank you for your kindness in lending me *The Zoist*, which I have read with a mingled feeling of pleasure and surprise.

"The cases stated, shew that there is, as *I have always thought*, much good in mesmerism, and that it is a powerful agent in tranquillizing nervous irritation and excitement, and apparently exercises a powerfully sedative effect; consequently must be a very valuable adjunct to more active treatment, directed to the suppression and removal of the various morbid phenomena producing these protean nervous anomalies. '*Sublatâ causâ, tollitur effectus*,' is a motto I should be happy to see more fully appreciated by my professional brethren; if so, many fatal issues, or perhaps, what is far worse, the maimed, crippled, enervated, paralytic, and apoplectic conditions of half our fellow-creatures, would be obviated. The practice is symptomatical, that is, to mask or remove the symptom or effect, and to suffer the cause to exist—vertigos, coughs, diarrhœas, &c., &c., are all thus treated. *Mesmerism is not curative of any disease*—useful in many disorders (an essential distinction to be observed), and invaluable in some, and, like homœopathy, hydropathy, and all the violent *abstruse theories* of the present delirious age, have all their advantages when rationally used and not abused.

"I have long known, revered and admired Dr. Elliotson, who was the pet of the profession, and still I do so: no man living has a better head or better heart; no one, the former better furnished, or the latter moved by more honourable, benevolent, gentlemanly impulses; and my sincere regret is, that so much excellence should be furnished by so fanatical an adherence to mesmerism.

"Apologizing for intruding these remarks upon you,

"I am, dear Sir,

"Yours obliged,

"——— ———."†

It is probable that the number of those who thoroughly disbelieve mesmerism is comparatively small; although, amongst public opponents, some still supply the place of argument by a repetition of the old tale, that the science is nothing more than collusion and delusion. The charge of fraud and collusion, if it ever had any foundation in truth, could have applied only to scenes got up by certain itinerant and mercenary lecturers, whose day happily is passed. The assertion

\* See Mr. Rawe's valuable papers in Nos. XXXII., XXXIII., XXXV., XXXIX. In the latter he exposes Mr. Druitt.

† Letter written to Mr. Rawe by a London general practitioner; who, living in the heart of London, is so ignorant of mesmerism as to feel surprise for the first time at the contents of *The Zoist* at the end of 1853, and not to know that diseases, not disorders (as he chooses to distinguish them), are cured by mesmerism—ulcers, enlargements, deposits (causing blindness if in the substances of the eye), and other structural affections, and inveterate skin diseases, &c., and that its use is not limited to affections of the nervous system, but extends to every point of the animal frame, and that it not only assuages but cures. He could not spend his time better than in reading *The Zoist* carefully through.—J. ELLIOTSON.



of delusion may not be quite so easily disposed of, for, if we consider the imperfection of human knowledge, and the circumstance that the discoveries of one generation overturn many of the conclusions of the preceding, it may be argued that much which is considered science may be delusion. But, if mesmerism is a delusion, it is such a one as a philanthropist would wish long to continue. Hundreds of diseased and suffering persons, many after having exhausted every other means of cure, *believe* themselves restored to health by mesmerism. I can imagine German mystics holding that disease is only an idea, and its cure an illusion; but sober-minded people will always believe the contrary.

My observations refer to simple or curative mesmerism, judiciously practised; and, in bringing forward two instances of its utility, these introductory remarks were suggested to my mind by a recollection of the thorough conviction of its value that the two individuals felt, and have moreover shewn by their advocacy of it.

#### I. *Indigestion, Debility of Brain, and generally Impaired Health.*

Mr. William Trevail, after an apprenticeship to a draper, went into a large house of business at Bath. The confinement and the close atmosphere of the shop undermined a naturally weak constitution, and he had to lodge out of the town and take medicine. Subsequently he relinquished business, and sought the best medical advice. But, all failing, he went to stay in the country with his brother-in-law, Mr. Treleven, of Kestle, about a mile and a half from my house. In his occasional friendly visits to me, I learned that he had all his life had weak digestion, had gradually got worse, and become correspondently weak. The stomach would now retain only a very few articles of diet, and his ailment made him exceedingly nervous and irresolute, so that to go into a room where there were two or three persons required a great effort. He was fond of reading, but of late his brain always felt so clouded that study was impossible. His rest by night was very bad.

Mr. Trevail at this time knew very little of mesmerism, and I considered his long-standing ailment would, if curable at all, require a length of time that I was not able to bestow: but I offered to make a few trials. In these, his eyes would close in a few minutes and a light slumber follow, sometimes amounting to total unconsciousness. *After every sitting he felt his head clear and his nerves braced, and at least one good night's rest followed.* He availed himself of this treatment

a great many times, and evidently gained in general health; so that it was a fair presumption that an unbroken course of it, and caution on the part of the patient, would have brought about as high a degree of health as his constitution admitted of.

Mr. Trevail had been advised to try *homœopathy* under a physician at Plymouth, and accordingly went there, I think, for *three months*. But, receiving *no benefit*, he took a journey to nearly the opposite extremity of England, to a celebrated *hydropathic* establishment. The baths, combined with the bracing air of the hills, for *some months*, failed to produce any apparent improvement. The nervous excitability still afflicted him, and he used sometimes to tell his companions that he would rather have one such mesmerising as he used to get in Cornwall than half a score baths. Experience had made him an advocate of mesmerism, and his frequent remarks set several of the inmates on trying their hands at it. I afterwards learned that one sufferer from epilepsy thought of paying me a visit.

After Mr. Trevail's return, he used frequently to call and get a mesmeric nap, attended with the same results as before. The failure of all else that had been resorted to enhanced his estimate of mesmerism, the beneficial effect of which was evident. To have been systematically taken in hand would have required not only regular mesmerisation, but a regulation of his daily life, for a little fatigue or indiscretion in diet always threw back the work of days; and in this respect he was, *like the majority of invalids*, very foolish. On the whole he improved, and often expressed gratitude for what I had done. My friend is a member of the religious body of Methodists, and is a worthy example of unostentatious and genuine piety. Being a local preacher on their plan, he was desirous of attending to his appointment whenever his strength permitted, and would at times come to me previously with the view of being enabled to go through the duty. He came one day after having gone as a hearer to a morning service, where he had found his head in so confused a state that, after a vain attempt to attend to the sermon, he had given it up. He had a sitting, and the next day informed me that at the evening service he was quite clear and comfortable.

Ultimately Mr. Trevail gained sufficient health, partly I suppose through mesmerism, and partly through country air, to engage in business, and has now continued in it between one and two years.

II. "*Flow of blood to the head.*"

In the summer of 1850, Mr. Trevail repeatedly urged me to mesmerise his brother-in-law, who was subject to painful attacks of disease. But, considering the latter, from all I then knew, to be a very unsuitable subject for the influence, I always declined. My notions at that time as to the characteristics of persons who were susceptible subjects were derived from books and conversation; and I have observed that almost every one, if he knows nothing more, can tell you all about the sort of persons who are good subjects, and the reverse. The individual proposed as a patient was Mr. Treleaven before mentioned, a respectable farmer, aged about 40. In person he is of a very robust frame, and an active country life keeps him in a muscular condition, without being fat: his weight is eleven stone: he has a well-developed head, and a countenance expressive of firmness of character: his hair is black and curly.

Mr. Treleaven had ascertained that I was going to visit an ailing neighbour, and went to the house before I arrived. Finding him so desirous, I at once offered to try what could be done. I will here describe the symptoms of his very peculiar disorder.

For the last *eight* years he had been subject to what was called a "flow of blood to the head." Theories of life and disease have been very numerous, some persons regarding the animal body as an electrifying machine, others as a galvanic battery. Not being a thorough convert to either doctrine, I will describe the interesting phenomena of the present case without any colouring of my own.

In the sub-acute state, there was a slight sensation of fulness in the left side of the gastric region of the abdomen, and a dull pain in the back of the head and neck on the right side, with a feeling of heat in these parts. The occurrence of hot weather, or his remaining in a warm room, increased the symptoms, and added a sensation as though a fluid were passing up through the tissues at the back of the neck. The use of alcoholic liquors and the attitude of stooping were also injurious. If the disorder increased, the voice became husky, and he felt, when walking, a giddiness as though the upper part of the skull were lifting up. When suffering to this extent, or even less, Mr. Treleaven was in constant danger of a much more severe attack; which had at times happened. If he were a scientific man, I have no doubt that he would be able to make his sensations more comprehensible: but, from frequent conversations with him, I gather that the first occurrence in a bad attack was com-

parable to a sudden *flash*, to use his own word, from the uneasy part in the side to the back of the head, followed by a sensation of burning heat in the body, with pain in the head, and he was impelled to rise into the erect position from an intolerable feeling of oppression which threatened to overpower him.

During the several years that Mr. Treleaven had been subject to this complaint, he had the advice of *six* different medical men; and was *almost continually under some treatment*. In no instance was the benefit more than palliative. But, for the last twelvemonths he had found *no benefit at all*, although his doctor had tried the *most heroic practice*. *Strong doses* of medicine, *venesection to a very unusual extent*, with diet little else than *bread and water*, had failed to subdue his disease: but had made him otherwise unwell.

The history of the other members of his family shewed that the worst consequences were to be apprehended. Not many years since they were a family of eight brothers and sisters, and it had been remarked that rarely could so many fine grown persons be seen in one family: yet two *only are now alive*. I believe two died of decline, but the relatives I have conversed with, as well as Mr. Treleaven himself, consider that the diseases of which several of them died were *essentially the same* as his own. The *father died suddenly in a fit*.

The first mesmerisation was on the 16th of September, 1850, at the house where he met me as before stated. The eyes closed in twenty minutes and a light doze followed. The sitting occupied about three quarters of an hour, and at the conclusion he found himself free from pain. He had, however, not suffered acutely on that day.

On the next day at my house, sleep was produced in ten minutes: powerful tractive passes were then used for a considerable time from the back of the head and neck over the shoulders and arms, and some general passes from head to foot. He afterwards described the singular impression made by the tractive passes. Those made towards the left seemed to move something from the back of the head in that direction. It was not the sensation, described by some patients, of quicksilver or cold water trickling down: but he compared it to a compact body, drawn gradually on, and dissipated at the shoulder and down the arm. What may be considered more strange is, that the track along which the imagined removal took place *was sore to the external touch*, and this for more than a day afterwards. At the *next* interview, two days afterwards, he came in high spirits, feeling *much better*:

had felt *little pain*, and *none* at all in the *head*. The operation was repeated three times a week, and never failed, when there was pain in any part, to drive it away.

Repetition made him rather more susceptible, and the sleep was tolerably sound. In *three weeks* he considered himself *cured*, but I continued the treatment about a month longer. *Medicine was entirely discontinued*, and, I believe, *dietetic substances disregarded*. Mr. Treleaven is a temperate man, but business transactions in the country are almost invariably accompanied by a glass of beer or grog, and when, on a fair or market day, a person has to make bargains or settlements with several parties, he sometimes takes more than his judgment approves. This he experienced some weeks after our last meeting, and he came to me with uneasy feelings in the side and head: but these were entirely removed by two sittings. He came to be mesmerised seven or eight times in the next three months, on the first appearance of any symptom of his old disorder. One sitting only was had on each occasion. These visits ceased about the end of March, 1851.

The summer had always been the most trying season to him, but this year the month of August arrived before he felt anything amiss, and I have no doubt that a sitting or two then would have kept him right. Yet, although he felt the premonitory symptoms, he allowed the calls of business, and the notion that he could at any time get relieved, to lead him to procrastinate for several weeks, and that in the hottest season of the year. He afterwards saw his error.

One evening, just at his bed-time, having a feeling of oppression, he went out in the cool air and took a short walk to shake it off, and then retired to bed. Shortly afterwards, one of his fearful attacks came on. I received a message from Mrs. Treleaven, hoping I would go over at once, as her husband was very ill. I complied. I told her that the only proper course in any serious attack of illness was to send for the medical man first, and that I was sorry they had not done so now, as I had a great objection to have anything to do with such cases unless under professional sanction. Her reply was, "I wanted to send for the doctor, but my husband overruled it: he said, 'Send for Mr. Rawe first: I have tried all: if mesmerism does not relieve me nothing will: whatever happens let all the blame be on me.'"

On going into his bed-room, I found him supporting himself in the standing position, and appearing as nearly faint as it was possible for a person to be and keep up: his

voice was almost inaudible : and he said he thought he should not be able to sit or remain still to be mesmerised. After a little while it was decided to make the attempt. On his being seated, I at once commenced making *gentle* passes down in front. His countenance was white, the respiration quick and feeble, the surface cold, with sweat standing on the face ; the pulse almost as small as a thread.

While sitting before him and endeavouring to give timely aid to the depressed powers of life, I anxiously watched for any change which might appear. After a little time, it was evident that a gradual improvement was going on, the pulse became little a stronger, and the countenance a little less death-like ; and I observed the process until, at the end of three quarters of an hour, the heart beat as usual, and the blood had fully returned to the cheeks. He now felt nothing to complain of, but had not sufficient confidence in the permanency of the improvement to venture to retire to bed at once. I staid half an hour longer, and, as nothing appeared amiss, I left. The next forenoon he walked over to me at Lemaile to have a sitting ; had passed a good night, and was free from pain. He was enthusiastic about mesmerism ; contrasting his experience in this attack with former ones treated in the ordinary way, after which he was generally unwell for a fortnight at least.

He closed his remarks with this very reasonable conclusion :—"The doctors ought to know about this : you ought to make my case known to the great men at the head of the profession." Poor man ! he had no idea of the task he proposed for me.

After this time he had a few sittings ; but the occurrence of any symptom of the complaint became *much less frequent* through the year 1852, and *last year there was none at all*. On my deciding to remove with my family to the neighbourhood of the metropolis, he was much concerned. I promised to give him a good mesmerising on my visits to Cornwall, probably two or three times a year.

When at Christmas last I bade him adieu, he said, "I can never repay you for what you have done for me. I consider that I owe my life to mesmerism : but for that, I believe I should have gone as my brothers and sisters have. I shall always be glad to testify to it in any way that you may wish."

JOHN RAWE.

Chesnut Cottage, Haverstock Hill, Hampstead,  
March 11th, 1854.

---

## NOTE BY DR. ELLIOTSON.

These two cases are invaluable. The first is one such as medical men have always in abundance under their care, trying first one drug and plan of diet and general management, and then another: and most frequently with unsatisfactory results, except that such are very profitable to the practitioner. The family or habitual medical adviser has such a patient under his care often and long, and is wearied with the everlasting complainings: and others are continually consulted or tried for longer or shorter periods. The amount of drugs taken in these cases is prodigious: and trading writers of books on indigestion and nervous complaints, like those who write on gout and rheumatism, and those who write on urinary affections and cutaneous diseases and affections of the chest, reap a plentiful harvest by advertising their books with their names incessantly, and thus catching the eye of unfortunate valetudinarians, as the advertising tailors and other tradesmen so well know how to catch customers. The advertisement of medical books on common disorders is a *genteel* and cunning way of imitating Messieurs Moses, Solomon, Mechi, Hyam, Savory, and others, who legitimately advertise as tradesmen, and in a direct and open manner for customers, who are *their* patients. Some of these medical authors succeed in getting passages from their books that are the most likely to excite the attention of unfortunate persons with dyspeptic, nervous, gouty, rheumatic, urinary, cutaneous, and chest affections, inserted from time to time into both the London and provincial newspapers. Writers on individual diseases are thought to know the most about them: but generally know nothing more of them than the rest of the profession, and are often moreover less acquainted with general practical medical science and the powers and general proper administration of remedies—a knowledge of all which is indispensable to the treatment of individual diseases.

The second case, though pronounced by the medical practitioner to be flow of blood to the head, was evidently in the attack witnessed by Mr. Rawe a fit of exhaustion of nervous energy, and calculated to be injured by all debilitating means. Ammonia, and not the lancet, was at least at that time the suitable remedy. Innumerable persons have been destroyed in all kinds of diseases by bleeding and other debilitating means; and innumerable persons, though not killed, been made worse or uncured, in neuralgic seizures, mistaken for inflammation; in giddiness, drowsiness, throb-

bing, heat, palsy, pains and other affections of the head, &c., ascribed to determination and congestion of blood, when they are dependent upon debility, and congestion is the effect of the nervous affection. The distinction is often easy: but often requires a very careful consideration of all the present symptoms and all the previous history of the patient, and a thorough knowledge of the varieties of the same disease. The sacrifice of human life by this ignorance must have been enormous. But now medical men run into the opposite extreme, and lose lives, or cause diseases to become protracted or not be cured at all, by not bleeding when they ought—

*"Dum vitant stulti vitia, in contraria currunt."*

When called to a celebrated writer a few years ago, I found he had been labouring many days under inflammation of the bowels, and been treated with merely a little rhubarb and similar things without advantage. His state was highly dangerous, and I gave it as my opinion that he would certainly die if not bled, and might even if he were bled. The practitioner remarked that he had not bled a patient for *two* years, and that the gentleman was very bulky. I replied that I would wait and regulate the quantity and take all the responsibility upon myself. The practitioner most courteously yielded to my wishes and bled the patient. I allowed no more blood to flow after the pulse was slightly affected. It proved to be in a highly inflammatory state, as I foretold. The patient was at once relieved, and with suitable medicines and diet from that moment advanced to perfect health. I myself had a very violent inflammation in my chest during last November. Nothing controlled it: and I one night begged a medical friend to bleed me. About twenty ounces were removed, and from that moment I recovered. In March I had a second still severer attack. I went on without relief for some time, and then begged the same friend to bleed me one evening. The loss of less than a pint was required on this occasion, and the results were all the same as before—immediate relief and perfect cure; and I took not a particle of medicine. I had never been so ill in my life as each time before I was bled. On casually mentioning this to a surgeon of St. Bartholomew's Hospital, he said that he was sure that no other person was bled in London on the day when I was bled. Perhaps he was right, for such are the extremes of the practice of medicine, and it is the same with surgery. Some years ago, patients were bled for almost everything: and people feared that they should not



continue in health unless they were bled twice a year. The surgeries of country practitioners were filled at *spring* and *fall* with healthy persons attending to be bled.

But in bleeding *not a drop* more should be taken away than is required for the purpose: the age and powers of the patient should be considered: and his internal sensations, as ringing in the ears, giddiness, confusion, dimness of sight, faintness, nausea, and debility, inquired into every few moments: and the pulse constantly felt, that the least diminution of strength or quickness, or irregularity, or increased quickness of it, may be noticed, as well as any relief in the pain or in other symptoms. If any of these effects takes place, the flow should be arrested: and if they cease, and the original state of things returns, and the patient is not relieved, the blood should be allowed to flow again, and according to the same rules. Sometimes none of these things occurs and there is no relief: and yet the quantity of blood taken is as great as we think the patient can with propriety lose. Here the flow should be arrested. The effects enumerated, few or more, occasionally begin after the arm is bound up, and thus relief is not obtained immediately, but still obtained. The patient should be bled in the upright position, because the loss of less blood in the sitting or standing position produces all the effects described than if the patient lies; and to remove the faintness, &c., we have then in general merely to lay him down. We should always endeavour to accomplish our purpose without the loss of one drop more than is absolutely required: and thus will seldom be under the necessity of bleeding a second time, or at any rate a third. All this I anxiously inculcated when I first even began to lecture in St. Thomas's Hospital, between twenty and thirty years ago, and I protested against the enormous and repeated bleedings practised by some through inattention to these rules. It is shocking to read the deluges of blood that some writers boast of having perpetrated in curing their patients. Many I am sure feel the effects of great loss of blood long and perhaps for life, and not unfrequently have some disease induced which shortens their life considerably.

So with drugs. Not a particle more should be taken than is necessary to relieve or cure the patient. The aim should be to benefit the patient with the smallest number of grains or drops: and it is still better if we attain our object without any drugs at all—by diet and general management alone. Yet the sound practitioner, who aims at this, will augment his doses steadily, and continuously, till he obtains the good which he desires, or sees that by going on he

shall produce a threatening of some effects which he does not desire. In the latter case, he will instantly reduce the dose or omit the medicine altogether for a time.

If it is wrong to give one grain or drop, or half a grain or drop, more than indispensable, it is equally wrong to give up a medicine till it has been taken in such quantities and for such a period as to have proved that the system has felt its power. The sound practitioner will appear to the ignorant sometimes to give doses ridiculously small, and sometimes doses preposterously large. He will not boast of giving large doses or small doses, but aim at giving the proper dose.

Some positively have a fixed dose for each medicine. When iodide of potassium, one of the most useful medicines ever discovered, was first used thirty years ago, Sir ———, being unluckily prejudiced against it as he is now against mesmerism, frightened some of my patients and for a time deterred them from its use, though they afterwards saw he was wrong. When its use became established, he and Dr. C——— never gave more than two grains for a dose, and told all patients and practitioners that this was the largest dose which was proper. Now there can be no fixed dose of any medicine: the effect of every medicine, and not the quantity, should be considered. Sometimes a quarter of a grain, nay an eighth, of this very medicine, is the utmost quantity borne: and sometimes no result is obtained from less than very many grains. I have explained to patients, and always successfully, this common sense view of the administration of this and other drugs, and they have always seen the error of this dictum of Sir ——— and Dr. C———. Indeed it is now happily disregarded. I recollect that one day I met Dr. C——— in consultation upon one case and the late Dr. H—— upon another—both gentlemen being physicians of St. ———'s Hospital and teaching the same pupils. In each case, iodide of potassium was agreed upon as the medicine. Dr. C——— said he always gave, as did Sir ———, two grains of it and never more, even if it produced no effect. Dr. H—— said he always began with ten grains. Now to begin with a large dose was as improper as to continue at one fixed small dose. Yet both these gentlemen passed as very sensible men.

While many practitioners give medicines in inefficient doses, others relinquish them before they, on account of the smallness of the dose or the short period of their administration, have done any good: and thus are changing their prescriptions incessantly: and the patient fancies he has tried everything, whereas he has really tried nothing, and has lost

all his time. One of the physicians at University College Hospital, who was not over educated or wise, but violently opposed mesmerism, declaring that he had never seen it and had always turned his eyes away from my patients while they were being mesmerised in the wards, generally made a full sweep at every visit or two of all the drugs he had prescribed at the previous visit. When prescriptions are continually changed, either the practitioner is usually prescribing foolishly, or is baffled at any rate: though of course sometimes changes in the symptoms require such changes of medicines.

The public have no conception of the absurd mode in which medicines are administered by men who have an abundance of practice, or of the oceans of liquid physic and mountains of pills and powders which are swallowed without having, either through being unfit for the case or improper in the doses or shortness of the period of administration, the smallest chance of benefiting the patient. Sir Benjamin Brodie twenty years ago in consultation remarked to me how badly medicines are in general prescribed, adding that very few prescribed them so properly as I did. Yet I am sure I never prescribe them otherwise than as the very *humblest common* sense suggests,—such common sense as every person, one would suppose, is endowed with.

Till very lately, it was the custom to give cathartics as improperly as to bleed; to give them when they were, like bleeding, absolutely injurious, or to give them too violently or often, a pill and black draught being the staple of many practitioners in all ailments: and in chronic cases to worry the bowels incessantly with them when nature ought to be left alone: just as some persons spoil a good horse by incessantly whipping or spurring it, and a poor dear child by incessantly punishing it so as to deprive nature of a chance. It is by no means requisite that the bowels of every person should act every twenty-four hours; nor, because they are sluggish, that aperients should be given, and time not be allowed to nature, who, if trusted, will generally in a day or two or more do her duty. This error I have always protested against.

Another prevalent folly has been to prescribe mercury on all occasions of giving an aperient. This is one of the best of medicines, but not required on every occasion of an aperient being proper. Yet till lately (and too generally at present it is the case), every prescription for an aperient pill contained mercury, when some simple aperient, with no drug calculated to get into the system as well as to act on the bowels, was required.

For thirty years the liver was the favourite organ; all diseases were referred to it, all treatment was directed to it.\* Of late years the kidneys have had an equal run, and I am sick of hearing about renal diseases and albuminous urine, which are serving at present to shew the folly and weakness of too many medical men, and to answer the purpose of too many of those whose ways are those of quacks. Above twenty years ago I steadily opposed the doctrine which sprung up, that albumen in the urine indicated structural disease of the kidney. I kept my ground firmly, because I rested on careful observation: and now this fancy is given up. But disease of the kidney is continually declared to exist when the result proves that it did not exist. If it really exists as one item in a list of affections, then are the rest continually declared to depend upon it, and important diseases of other organs slighted, and it is set up as the great enemy for attack, although in structural disease of the kidney medicine can in general do little or nothing and frequently is most mischievously employed. How long this nephromania will last I cannot guess. The mesmero-phobia will soon be beaten.

Every practitioner, he who has for some reason or other a name among titled and fashionable people for whom he is prescribing from morning to night, and he who prescribes for the inhabitants of the humblest streets or villages, should be fully acquainted with the transcendent assuaging and curative powers of mesmerism, instead of running wild with the follies which I have now pointed out. He would then be ten thousand times more useful to the community than he is at present. I speak literally and advisedly. Whatever be the disease, acute or chronic, occurring in the infant or the adult, in whatever part of the body, mesmerism in an immense number of cases will render the most powerful, the most blessed assistance. It can interfere with no other treatment and can do no harm. But it is too frequently employed with little chance of doing good. Some persons expect to be cured of a disease, perhaps of long standing, at one sitting. Some, who are not so ignorant, are yet so impatient that, if they are not presently relieved, they give it up. Some, while going through a course of it, do the most unwise things from time to time and frustrate its operations. And then again

---

\* I often think of the following lines in Lord Byron's *Don Juan*, suggested by the medical mania which prevailed even upwards of thirty years ago:—

“ So that all mischiefs spring up from this entail  
Like earthquakes from the hidden fire called central.”

there are many very bad mesmerisers. Some talk while they mesmerise; whereas they and the patients, and every body in the room, should observe perfect silence, and there should be nothing to distract the attention of either patient or operator. Some mesmerisers are listless: get up from time to time for some silly purpose or other, or look about the room, or give other signs of want of earnestness: whereas the mesmeriser should never take his eyes off his patient or intermit his work, but go steadily and uninterruptedly on, slowly and intently. Some make passes too quickly and jerk their hands at every pass or snap their fingers or do some other mountebankery; whereas all should be simplicity and sobriety. Some labour hard, strain, and puff and blow: but there is *no occasion for the least muscular effort*, and the more gently and easily the arms and hands are used the better; provided the attention is never taken off the patient—who, on his part, should be quiet and still, and keep his attention fixed on the mesmeriser, and keep his eyes wide open, unless this requires an effort. If local mesmerism is proper, there should still be no muscular effort; the hands and tips of the fingers should be passed slowly and very lightly upon the parts: and absolute contact is not always indispensable.\*

---

\* See observations on mesmerisers in No. XXVIII., p. 389:—"A very large number of those who profess to mesmerise do not a hundredth part of the good they might, and thus injure individual patients and the progress of the subject. It is difficult to find a professed mesmeriser who gives me satisfaction. Too many are full of whims of their own and act the quack, talking as if possessed of extraordinary knowledge, making all sorts of displays in their methods, in fact, playing all sorts of antics, and talking all sorts of nonsense. Many of my patients have been made so nervous by these mesmerisers as to be unable to continue to employ them. Some thoughtlessly talk all the time. Now a good mesmeriser works in silence, and allows no talking in the room, nor anything else that can excite the patient. The passes should be made very slowly, or they may excite rather than calm, and may prevent sleep. The mesmeriser should look earnestly at the patient, and be absorbed in the attempt to produce a silent influence. It is in general best to persevere with one method, for the diversifying the attempt is very likely to excite the curiosity and wonder of the patient and prevent repose. One sort of passing, or mere pointing, or gazing, may, for some unknown reason, suit one patient better than another: but, when a patient, by mere continuance of attempts, has become affected, the method employed at the moment of success is likely from association to be afterwards, at least for a long while, far more effectual, if not even exclusively effectual, than others. I would not allow a patient of mine to be mesmerised by one who, while the process is going on, talks at all, or laughs, or makes quick passes, snaps his fingers, makes flourishes, or plays any monkey tricks; or is careless and listless. All should be done calmly and even solemnly: for mesmerism is a serious, holy thing. There is no occasion to hold the hands, or sit with knees against knees; or in general to touch the patient at all. And all may be done as well by the operator standing to one side of the patient as opposite. There is no occasion for the operator to vibrate his hands or head, or make any muscular effort. The best mesmerisers are those who do all quietly and gently.

"Some persons, whom I have recommended as mesmerisers, have taken the

IV. *More insanity from Spirit-rapping fancies.*

By Dr. ELLIOTSON.

" — the stars,  
Which in thy cradle beamed so brightly sweet,  
Were gods to the *distempered* playfulness  
Of thy *untutored* infancy : the tress,  
The grass, the clouds, the mountains, and the sea,  
All living things that walk, swim, creep, or fly,  
Were gods : the sun had homage, and the moon  
Her worshipper. Then thou becamest a boy  
More daring in thy *phrenzies* : every shape,  
Monstrous or vast, or beautifully wild,  
Which from sensation's relics, fancy culls :  
The *spirits of the air*, the *shuddering ghost*,  
The genii of the elements, the powers  
That give a shape to nature's varied works,  
Had life and place in the *corrupt belief*  
Of thy *blind heart*."

SHELLEY.

THE ZOIST has done its duty (as in every matter it always has fearlessly, and I trust always will) in exposing the ig-

---

liberty of passing an opinion upon the medical treatment which I had prescribed at the same time ; or, where there was no other treatment, of suggesting medical treatment. One person, quite ignorant of medicines, took the liberty of applying leeches when exhaustion forbade any such measures : one introduced a foreigner to assist her in mesmerising, who was a linendraper in Brussels and passed himself off as a doctor, and he mesmerised and prescribed. Some, instead of simply mesmerising, as I directed, introduced pretended clairvoyants, absolute impostors. I advise all medical men to allow nothing of this sort when they employ mesmerisers. But, on the other hand, they should not interfere with the mesmeriser, or take any measures without conferring with him, provided they understand nothing of it and he is a fully informed and discreet mesmeriser.

"Some amateur mesmerisers do injury to the cause by their want of perseverance. If they produce no benefit, or no sensible effect, in the first few trials, of perhaps only a quarter of an hour each, they give up the case. I wish such persons would never take a case in hand, because their failures must be very numerous, and the poor patient conceives that mesmerism, perhaps his last and only hope, is no remedy for him, and our adversaries register the more failures. In truth, mesmerism cannot be said to have failed under a trial of a year or more in chronic cases. Let no one mesmerise who is not prepared to give a daily trial of at least half an hour for many months or still longer.

"On the other hand, I must also entreat the afflicted never to begin mesmerism unless firmly resolved to give it a fair trial ; and not to give it up because they are not better soon, or do not go to sleep. I often foolishly lose all patience with people, to whom I have explained the possibility of no effect occurring for a length of time, and of benefit without sleep, returning or writing to me in a few days with a declaration that, as they felt nothing, they should not continue it. Some go about saying they cannot be sent to sleep because Mr. Somebody tried one day without effect. If a complaint is worth the trouble of curing, it is worth the trouble of submitting to a remedy causing neither pain nor annoyance, but requiring merely perseverance. Some give up in a few weeks or months. It is surprising how many persons in the world have no force of character : are only big children—holding silly opinions on various subjects of which they know nothing, and acting without reason or steadiness."

norance and preposterous absurdity of those poor creatures who believe in spirit-rappings and spirit-table-movings. The abettors of this pernicious folly are all very angry at being considered imperfectly educated and weak : and, the more angry they are, the better for themselves and others. In the last Number (XLV., p. 33) was this passage :—

“ We have also given examples, alas ! too numerous, in our last Number, of insanity produced by these ignorant fancies : and now we have to record another in the person of a well-known authoress, who always had indulged in such superstitions and has of course adopted all the recent spirit fancies. She has gone stark mad and stark naked on the spirit-rapping. She was found the other day in the open street, as her mother bore her, except that she had a pocket handkerchief in one hand and a card in the other. She said the spirits had informed her that, if she walked out so prepared, she would be invisible. She is now in a madhouse.”

Two more instances have since occurred within my own knowledge. A member of a trading firm called upon me in great concern to say that the wife of one of their workmen had gone mad upon the subject of spirit-rapping. She and her husband had read poor old Mr. Robert Owen’s silly accounts of his interviews with the spirit of His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, who still enjoys his aristocratic rank and observes his earthly punctuality, and I dare say his other earthly habits (“ still punctual, your Royal Highness ! ”) ; and with other spirits ; and had dwelt upon the trash till, probably out of compliment to her sagacity, spirits began to visit her also. In superstition woman usually leads the way ; and begins before her husband or brothers, or father or sons ; and, after their conversion, is the support of the folly. The ancient heathen temples were crowded with women, and Strabo says that the props of the priests were the women. The evil spirit is represented to have known that Eve would listen to him more easily than Adam, and that she could bring Adam round to her way of thinking. Men are educated badly enough in the highest and in the humblest seminaries ; but women infinitely worse. Little sound, solid and elevating, knowledge is taught. The nonsense which, instead of the positive and grand facts of nature, is inculcated into the young, is appalling. The higher orders are even worse off in this respect than the humble. A wise woman is a noble being : but I should prefer death to having a superstitious, silly wife ; and, if I had children, would prefer seeing them lie dead to their being trained up in pernicious, idiotic absurdities, which no pains might afterwards eradicate.

To learn singing and playing on instruments is not edu-

cation: the acquisition of languages and literature is not education: the knowledge of any science or art is not education. Each of these things is excellent and worth learning, but, alone, does not secure the expansion of the intelligence, nor give a grasp of intellect, or noble aspiration. Extensive views of all the truths of nature, inanimate, living, intellectual, and moral, are indispensable to sound education, and a far, very far, higher and different moral training than that which prevails in the titled and aristocratic world, in the middle-class world, the political world, the religious world, or in the scientific world, in all which miserable views and miserable conduct meet our eyes at every turn. As to the education afforded by mere mathematics, allow me to quote Mr. Dugald Stewart:—"In the course of my own experience I have never met with a *mere mathematician* who was not *credulous to a fault*, not only with respect to human testimony but credulous also in matters of opinion, and prone on all subjects which he had not carefully studied to repose too much faith in illustrious and consecrated names."\*

The wife was at the time of the introduction of these distempered fancies into her head a beautiful and clever woman, and had been up to that time an excellent wife and mother. After reading Mr. Owen's pamphlet she began to have consultations with spirits; heard them rapping at all hours day and night; neglected her poor little children, and at length became so violent and mischievous that her relatives came forward and insisted upon placing her in the lunatic asylum at Brixton. This was above two months ago, and she is still there, totally unfit to be taken out. But, before this necessary step was taken, she had brought over her weak husband to her own folly, and, though he goes to work, where he had worked four years—from the origin of the establishment—he has communications with spirits, hears them rap around him, has grown "as pale as a ghost," to use the words of my informant, and sometimes has no sleep all night through the visits and conversations of the spirits. He says they have told him to go to the chief constable of St. Pancras and get his wife out, and that money is coming to him from Australia: sometimes he sees his wife coming in at the door and she talks to him.

This unhappy pair have several little children.

Such histories it is melancholy to think upon: and accursed are all those who disseminate these worse than absurd, these wicked, doctrines.

---

\* *Moral Philosophy*, vol. iii., p. 280.



I know more than one family in whom the youthful daughters have seen the absurdity of their parents, and confessed at last to others that they amused themselves by pretending that the spirits rapped answers and moved tables. It is a lamentable state of things when children lose respect for their parents, and it is shocking when they sport with the folly of their father and mother. I heard of an instance in which a mother was constantly talking about and trying the spirits instead of performing her maternal duties, and so excited and worn down was one of her children that disease took an easy hold of it, and probably prejudiced and inefficient treatment soon carried off the poor thing. A magistrate in a distant country is said on good authority to have consulted the spirits before he passed judgment upon a culprit: and a medical man in this country to consult the spirits before he prescribes. We are all bound to denounce this abomination.

But, Gentlemen Editors, I have a crow to pluck with you. You ought to be ready to give the name and address in private of the parties of whom you write. But in your account of the lady who went into the streets stark mad and stark naked through her spirits, you make no such offer to your readers. The consequence of which is, that, as you do not mention the lady's age nor even her country, whether England, Scotland, Ireland, or Wales, a lady has been fixed upon, and has fixed upon herself, who perhaps never was mad for an instant in her life, nor ever listened to spirits commanding her to sacrifice her modesty for the good of her soul; and poor I, though I did not write one word of the description, have been fixed upon and abused as if I were the real culprit. First came a letter from Mrs. de Morgan, giving me her unasked-for opinion, and containing the following passages, which, in justice to Mrs. Crowe, and to shew you what my sufferings under such remonstrances must be, I am bound to send you for publication.

"I cannot help expressing my regret to you that an article should have a place in *The Zoist* calculated to give much pain to the subject of it—my friend, Mrs. Crowe, who is no doubt the person referred to. This lady had, it is true, an attack of cerebral congestion about five weeks ago, in consequence of want of attention to her health. She was looking out for a lodging—got her meals ill cooked, or did not get them regularly—had a young and heedless servant, who did not perceive the feverish attack coming on, and in consequence was seriously delirious for two days. The attack was removed by a very simple dose of medicine; but in the meantime, some of her friends believing her to be permanently insane, had her brought up by a

night train to Hanwell. Dr. Conolly soon saw that she was not a fit inmate for his place, and assisted her in extricating herself. She is now in a lodging at the west end of London, where I saw and had a long talk with her a fortnight since. She was twice at the play the week before last. You have probably heard all this already, but I send it on the chance."

When any one falls into a passion from some vexation, there is congestion of the brain, but that is not the cause of the fury. If the lady of *The Zoist* went naked into the streets, exposing her exquisite and hitherto unseen and unappreciated beauties of shape and hue, she must to my poor apprehension have been mad,

"— true madness,  
What is it but to be nothing else than mad?"

and very fit for Dr. ———, who, perhaps, sent her away, whoever she was, both because she was *no longer* mad and moreover was *very disagreeably disagreeable*.

But the great letter to me is from Mrs. Crowe herself.

"Dr. Wilson's, Great Malvern,  
"May 3rd.

"Sir,—I think before you inserted that 'unmanly' paragraph (as the *Daily News* justly calls it) in *The Zoist*, which has been thence copied into the newspapers, you should have taken the trouble to ascertain the truth of the statement.

"A little enquiry would have enabled you to learn that I was not mad about spirit-rapping or anything else; but that I had been since the 26th of February, and was still, very ill, and that when the magazine was published, I was residing in London for the benefit of medical advice, and had been so since the 14th of March. Since during the whole of my stay in London, I was in the daily habit of visiting, and being visited by, many of your acquaintance, the fact would have been easily ascertained.

"The world has been ready enough to call you mad for your heterodox beliefs, and if I did believe in the spirits it would be no proof of madness: as it happens, my judgment is yet suspended on the subject; but as I happened to be investigating the phenomena at the time I was taken ill, in the aberration of mind that accompanied the illness I fancied myself haunted by spirits.

"I did not know till a few days since that you had done me this friendly turn. I should have thought your own experience would have made you more just and merciful to others: I have always been indignant at the persecution you have sustained; but since you are so ready and eager to persecute others, you thoroughly deserve what you have met with.

"CATHERINE CROWE."

Now I really had no desire to make enquiries of Mrs. Crowe's friends: nor was I aware that I knew even one of

them. I recollect the good lady at an evening party at Mrs. Milner Gibson's, and at another at Mrs. Monckton Milnes's; and perhaps at one or two others, but where I forget. People go to evening parties continually who can hardly be said to have any acquaintance with those whom they thus visit. I should never have thought of enquiring of either lady about her: and till now I was not aware that she was acquainted with Mrs. de Morgan, even should their investigations and convictions be identical. I really know nothing more of Mrs. Crowe than that I am informed she wrote a book of which I never read nor am likely to read a line, and which I never saw. Why should the world fancy that Mrs. Crowe was the lady?

Your sole object was evidently to stay this plague: and I will aid you to the utmost of my poor power.

Who Mrs. Crowe's friend in the office of the *Daily News* is, I am not aware. But this is certain, that the *Daily News* some months ago did not refrain from publishing a list of persons, with their names and residences, who had gone mad through spirit-rapping.\*

\* "The wife of Michael Catt, of Decker Township, Indiana, was shot on Monday last by her daughter-in-law, who was much excited on supernatural objects at the time.

"Mr. Orville Hatch, of Franklin, Connecticut, has become insane, having devoted considerable attention to the subject of spiritual rappings. Mr. Hatch is a farmer, and has been instrumental in introducing many important improvements in agriculture.

"Mr. Barber, a deacon in one of the churches (Congregational) in Warwick, has become insane, in consequence of surrendering himself to the 'spiritual-rapping' delusion. His wife and other members of the family are in a similar state.

"Mr. B. Peabody hung himself in a barn in Grafton, Lovain county, on Friday last. He was an amiable, intelligent, and respected young man, and became so absorbed in rappings as to unbalance his mind. His case is but one of a long list of insane, made so by modern rappings and spiritualism.

"The annual report of the Ohio Lunatic Asylum discloses the fact, that there are no fewer than 26 persons (13 men and 13 women) who have found their way there by means of the spiritual rappings.

"Samuel Dole, of Worthington county, Ohio, was made insane by the spirit-rappings, and became possessed with the idea that he must offer, like Abraham, a sacrifice to the Supreme. He accordingly proceeded to cut off one of his own feet, which he succeeded in doing in a very scientific manner, and with heroic determination. His family, fearing that some other of his limbs might be demanded in a like cause, had him conveyed to the lunatic asylum.

"A young woman was removed to the asylum at Utica this week, having become insane in consequence of witnessing some 'spiritual' experiments in Massachusetts. She is now wild with madness.

"Mr. Christopher Snevely, a very worthy and industrious citizen of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, has become insane in consequence of attending to 'spiritual manifestations,' and has been conveyed to the Pennsylvania Lunatic Asylum, and is now a raving maniac.

"Ebenezer Pope, of Milton, hung himself on the 14th instant; cause, 'spi-

I hope she will give the results to the scientific world of her investigations into this recondite and doubtful matter of true science: and when she writes to me again will not aim at surpassing the very pretty little bit of Christianity which closes her epistle.

---

*V. Report of the Fifth Annual Meeting of the Mesmeric Infirmary of London.*

THIS Meeting was held on the 7th of June, at Willis's Rooms, King Street, St. James's.

On the motion of JOHN FRERE, Esq., one of the magistrates for Middlesex, RICHARD MONCKTON MILNES, Esq., M.P., took the chair.

Mr. MILNES opened the Meeting by stating, that his conviction of the truth and value of mesmerism was grounded upon attentive observation, and had existed for nearly twenty years. He pointed out the opposition which the greatest discoveries had always met with and the great antiquity of many, mesmerism among the rest, that were thought to be of late date, but had really at their origin been suppressed through the opposition and intolerance of mankind. He had been a subscriber to the Infirmary from the beginning, and was pleased that the hope expressed by him at the first meeting that no exhibition of phenomena would be allowed had been fulfilled: and he commended the Rev. Mr Townshend's recent answer to the *Quarterly Review*, entitled *Mesmerism proved True, or, the Quarterly Reviewer Reviewed*.

Dr. ELLIOTSON then read the Report of the Committee.

"At the last General Meeting we had to announce a difficulty which had unexpectedly come upon us. Although we had never received in-patients nor intended to receive any, and therefore could never treat patients with fevers or any infectious diseases, some few of the gentlemen of Fitzroy Square became so excited by our presence that they met together, stirred up the rest, and got up an address to the ground-landlord, requesting him to remove us lest we should endanger the health of themselves, their wives, and their

---

ritual rappings.' He was one of the select men, and leaves a family to mourn over his terrible delusion.

"We regret to announce that a lady of Northampton, Massachusetts, a lady too of great beauty, loveliness, and intelligence, the mother of six children, has become raving mad through the influence of 'spiritual manifestations.' She was conveyed to the Battleborough Insane Hospital, on Wednesday, in such a state of excitement that it took two attendants to hold her. These instances are multiplying with fearful rapidity in every quarter of the country. Some of the most sane, too, out of the madhouse, talk like madmen."

little ones. We informed them repeatedly of their error: but in vain. They persisted in their misrepresentations. They also urged that there would be unsightly collections of patients at our door, although our door was not in the Square, but in an adjoining street. We replied that there never could be a crowd, because our patients did not come all at one hour, but came, one or two only at a time, every half hour between ten and four o'clock, each having his fixed period for coming, and each leaving the house separately. We made this reply: but also in vain. They farther contended that no house in *that* Square ought to be other than a private residence; notwithstanding that there are absolutely shops, or club-houses, or public institutions, in many squares inhabited by the highest nobility—in St. James's Square, in Cavendish Square, and in Hanover Square—and notwithstanding that an open surgery or doctor's shop was kept by the medical inhabitant of the opposite corner of Fitzroy Square, into which, in exact correspondence with our door which was not in the Square but in Grafton Street, was a door in the side street, into and from which poor persons were passing at pleasure all day long with bottles or with sores that required dressing: whereas we give no physic, dress no sores, and present no appearance different from what is presented by the rest of the Square. In private their complaint was that Fitzroy Square, and even the very house we had taken, had borne so unfavourable a name, and the surrounding streets still had so unfavourable a name, that the Square could not afford the least loss of respectability; could not afford to suffer the degradation of having one of its houses devoted to silent deeds of sympathy and the removal of suffering.

"The Committee did not feel justified in spending any of the Society's slender funds upon the uncertainty of the law, and therefore resolved to submit. Happily we were able to let the house to a solid and respectable tenant for the whole term of our lease, and at the same rent which we paid for it. We found a house with a sufficient number of rooms; not quite so large, but perfectly adapted to the purposes of the Institution, at the west end of town, in an infinitely better district, and in a highly respectable street, which is known to every body, very accessible, and in the midst of streets composed of the most distinguished residences. We took a lease of No. 36, Weymouth Street for 14 years, at a rent of £120 per annum, including a coach-house and stables, which yield to the Infirmary £12 a year, and we paid a premium of

£130. We have done it up, and find it everything that we require.

"We have a new Secretary in the room of the worthy Mr. Capern, who has set up as a private mesmeriser. Mr. Gardiner has proved himself devoted to the cause of mesmerism and the well-doing of the Infirmary. His unwearied attention to his duties, his undeviating kindness to the patients, his firmness in keeping all things in order, his mildness, conscientiousness, and disinterestedness, are admirable. He and his family reside in the house, and one of his eldest daughters has taken some of our female and very young patients as an amateur. Both he and this daughter felt uncomfortable till we consented to their becoming annual subscribers, although his salary is only the same which we gave to our first Secretary—Mr. Buckland, when we opened the Institution, not knowing whether we should be able to carry it on, and when the labour was light.

"The progress which the knowledge and the conviction of the truth of mesmerism has made since the last meeting is immense: we might say that its truth is universally admitted. The few who, for consistency, still pretended not to believe it, say but little, and their chief opposition is in ascribing the phenomena to imagination, suggestion, and dominant ideas; passing over in silence, shortsightedly as well as dishonestly, the innumerable facts recorded, and occurring daily, in which there can be no imagination, no suggestion, no dominant ideas; passing over in silence the innumerable splendid mesmeric cures of all kinds of diseases and the alleviation of distress and agony, as well as the prevention of pain from the knife, the corroding caustics, and hot irons of the surgeon. As the folly of denying the truth of mesmerism may now be considered to have passed away, so will the absurd explanations of its genuine effects; and the wickedness—the *wickedness*—of ignoring in the medical journals and other medical writings, and in the lectures delivered in the medical schools, must soon be given up in very despair and shame.

"Since the last annual meeting we have had 27 donations and 25 new annual subscribers. Many of the new donors and subscribers are, like many of former years, inhabitants of distant parts of the country; some inhabitants of Ireland, Scotland, and Wales; and even a native physician at Milan has become a subscriber to those sufferers in London who cannot procure the blessings of mesmerism in ordinary hospitals, dispensaries, and infirmaries;—knowing the small-

ness of our means, and are, no doubt, anxious to support what is a great standing fact which proves the existence and reality and utility of mesmerism and is open to the observation of all who choose to visit it.

"We cannot help regretting that some mesmerists who openly declare their convictions, some who have even mesmerised with effect, nay, some who have published cures and written in its favour, still hold aloof from us, notwithstanding that earnest applications have been made to them for assistance which they are well able to afford. Some of even wealth, high station, and rank, whose request to witness mesmeric phenomena has always been accorded by mesmerists, and who have expressed their conviction and delight, do not yet contribute their mite. If this is a sad view of human nature, there is on the other hand a cheering view in witnessing the little contributions of some who can ill afford to part with money, but feel a deep concern, in some instances through gratitude, in our holy cause.

"We must be pardoned for expressing our sorrow at another circumstance: our subscriptions are of course all due in advance—but, as in every other charity, too many subscribers are still in arrear.

"Through some unfortunate circumstances, with which your Committee had no connection, the donation boxes were not distributed so early by very many months as they ought to have been; and consequently our advantages from this source are not what they should have amounted to. In future the Committee will look to this matter themselves. We entreat the friends of mesmerism to take boxes, whether they are able to subscribe to us or not. Those young ladies especially, who are always seeking to promote the universal welfare, might assist us powerfully in this respect and solicit aid on every occasion. The Secretary will be happy to furnish boxes and to send for them back before the meeting in 1855.

"Everything proceeds in our institution with steadiness, earnestness, seriousness and propriety. We challenge the closest scrutiny by all our foes. The Committee meet regularly once a week, receiving a report of the daily treatment, and of the weekly result, in every case.

"Medical effects are our only aim. Phenomena occurring spontaneously we are obliged to witness, and are not unwilling that others should witness, while the individual patient is being mesmerised. But we make no display of them; we have no exhibitions. Although we know clairvoyance to be a truth, we never employ it, since it is often in fault, and what appears to be reality is occasionally delirious wan-

dering only, or absolute pretence in order to impose upon the credulous. Still in an undoubted and exquisite case, the instruction of clairvoyance may be of importance: but such cases are too rare to render it proper to allow clairvoyance to be attended to, without special permission from the Committee after grave examination into the facts of a case.

"Above all we keep clear of supernaturalism. We are cultivators of *natural* knowledge, as every candidate is told by the president on his admission into the Royal Society; and we allow nothing that is termed spirit-rapping or spirit table-turning; although we express no opinion upon the subject, nor as to whether a power, hitherto overlooked, exists in us and other animals of causing movements in inanimate bodies independently of mechanical impulse, and a power in some conditions of the system of causing certain sounds.

"We have treated 237 patients during the last twelve months. There were 39 on hand at the beginning of it, we have 43 in hand at present, and there have been 198 fresh patients. Our removal from Fitzroy Square caused both expense and a great interruption to the good which we were effecting. Patients who lived near, and especially those who lived on the other side of our former house, were in many instances unable to reach our present locality; and, from our tenant absolutely refusing to allow a board near the door or a paper in the window for the purpose of indicating our new residence till he inhabited the house, many persons, both poor and rich, were unable to understand where we had gone. Without the great activity, intelligence, and endurance of inconveniences and annoyances, possessed by our Secretary, the business of the charity must have been suspended for a much longer time than it was.

42 cases have been cured.

9 are all but cured.

64 improved to a greater or less extent.

43 are still under treatment.

"Nearly all the rest of the patients attended but a short time—far too short for improvement to have been possible; some attended only two or three times, some even only once. For mesmerism is conceived of by a large number of people as a magical remedy, curing at once if it does cure; and not worth being continued beyond a day or two, nor capable of doing good, unless sleep or some peculiar effect is produced; whereas it often requires long perseverance, and often simply cures without any other effect. It is to be remembered that the greater number of our patients come to us after other treatment has failed and when other is not likely to succeed.



A large number have been under several medical men, been in more medical institutions than one, and gone through long and not unfrequently severe treatment in the way of strong and disgusting drugs and severe external applications, to which some of the medical profession had rather that their patients should be subjected, even with little or no chance of benefit, than be treated by our mild and easy, nay, agreeable, method, with great probability of cure or alleviation. Let them not blame their journalists too severely for keeping them in the dark and wilfully ignoring our facts. The journalists, and their employers the proprietors, know what will please the profession and procure customers. Nineteen purchasers of the *Lancet* out of twenty, said its editor to one of us sixteen years ago, are against mesmerism. The editor's course was therefore clear.

"The cases which come to us are thus for the most part intractable in their natures, and an exceedingly small number are recent, short in their character, or readily removed, even by nature herself, as is the fact with the majority of those complaints for which persons take physic.

"The meeting will be gratified by hearing a few specimens of the remedial power of mesmerism. The following are rapid cures of rheumatism :—

"Elizabeth Chittle, 59 years of age, residing at 94, John-street, Tottenham Court Road, had acute rheumatism eleven years ago, and ever since had continually suffered severely from the disease, in her hips, knees, ankles, arms, hands and head, more or less indeed in all her joints; been confined for months together; and under the care of many medical men. She went to the infirmary on August the 9th with the aid of a stick, both maimed and lame. She was mesmerised by Miss Job, one of our unpaid mesmerisers. On the 16th she was very much better, and on the 23rd so much improved and delighted, that she said she could jump out of the window for joy and she walked without her stick. On the 3rd of September she was perfectly well.

"William Clarke, aged 35, living at Stanmore, was seized with acute rheumatism five years before; and for two years was unable to work. The first year he was perfectly helpless, and afterwards walked with a crutch and a stick; but during the second year he could do no work. After remaining a year at home at Spawford, in Yorkshire, whither he had been sent after the first year, he began to work, but he got wet and caught cold in August, 1852, and from that period had no use of his legs, not being able to raise them from the ground, but obliged, when seated in a chair and wishing to

move them, to employ his hands for this purpose. He was sent to us by the Rev. H. Hill, of Stanmore, for the only probable chance of benefit, and crawled into the Infirmary on two sticks, with difficulty drawing one leg after the other. He was mesmerised by Mr. Coney, one of our unpaid mesmerisers, for the first time on September the 7th. On the 20th there was relief and general improvement; on the 27th he could walk with a stick tolerably well; on the 12th of October, he could walk without crutch or stick, and returned thanks in person to the Committee for such a blessing as mesmerism.

"As we have no in-patients, Mr. Hill obtained a resting place for him while in London, at that useful institution in Rose Street, Soho, called the House of Charity.

"Elizabeth Clifford, aged 46, living at 13, Marsham Square, Westminster, had laboured under rheumatic gout every three or four months for the previous two years. She tried various practitioners; and, being seized in the Charter House Square Hospital, where she was in order to undergo an operation, with one of her severe attacks, was told it was the best thing which could have happened to her. *She* fancied otherwise, and took all sorts of medicine in vain. She came to us on the 26th of October. William Fisher mesmerised her, and she was considerably relieved at the first sitting, and on the 13th was well and presented herself to the Committee to express her gratitude.

"William James Young, aged 43, and living at No. 33, Park Street, Dorset Square, had for three years experienced attacks of rheumatism in his hands. Each attack was worse than the preceding. The pain almost destroyed his sleep. He had taken no medicine, but applied mustard poultices and blisters, though without any relief.

"He was perfectly cured by William Fisher in five sittings.

"Miss M——, aged 46, residing in Rutland Street, Hampstead Road, had been afflicted eight years with frequent attacks of severe pain in the hips, knees, and shoulders, as well as other parts. She had been under various practitioners, and gone through courses of violent medicine, not only without relief, but with the effect of weakening her digestive organs and of other evils. Miss Brunning mesmerised her on September the 17th: by the 20th she was much relieved, and completely cured by the 30th. This lady was a paying patient.

"The following are rapid cures of neuralgic pains:—

"Miss W——, a paying patient, aged 25 years, was ex-

ceedingly nervous, and suffered such pain and sense of weight in the head, that she had but little sleep. She suffered likewise from constipation and indigestion. Mr. Gardiner began mesmerising her on the 6th of September. She was much relieved at the very first sitting, and lost all her symptoms in a week.

"Mr. F——, of Hammersmith, also a paying patient, aged 20, had been tormented with neuralgia of the face and jaw for three months and had taken ordinary and homœopathic medicines in vain. William Fisher mesmerised him the first time, without any relief, on the 27th of September. By October the 1st he was much relieved, and by the 3rd entirely liberated from his sufferings, and he expressed great thankfulness for his cure.

"Caroline Bryant, aged 44, living at 18A, Cleveland Street, Fitzroy Square, was seized in July, 1852, with agonizing pain in the left shoulder that increased considerably and extended down the arm, accompanied by numbness and a pricking sensation at the ends of the fingers, so that she dropped everything and at length lost the use of her thumb and fingers. She suffered thus for a year, finding no means of relief, and feared that she should quite lose the use of her hand and arm. Miss Job began to mesmerise her on the 12th of September. By the 20th she was much relieved, and by the 11th of October perfectly cured, and she returned thanks to the Committee on the 13th, saying that she could then go through a day's washing—a thing which she had been unable to do for a twelvemonth.

"Mary Ann Lickfold, aged 40, and living at No. 3, Marshall Street, Golden Square, applied to a homœopathic institution seven years ago, on account of an eruption, a horrid sensation of dryness in the throat and mouth, a sensation of a hair on the tongue, and extreme nervousness. These symptoms subsided in some measure; but were soon succeeded by others. She could not sleep, took a fancy that her bed was unsuited for her, and by its reclining position occasioned her nervousness and her pains in the loins. She procured a new bed, but without any advantage. She grew worse and worse. She found great difficulty in walking with the support of a friend to the institution. William Fisher began to mesmerise her on the 29th of September. On the 12th of October her pain was less and her health improved considerably: on January the 9th her improvement had been so rapid that she walked down to the Infirmary; and on February the 14th she was perfectly restored to health, and attended to thank the Committee.

"The following cure of distressing nervous affection is full of interest. George Keene, aged 38, living at No. 14, Newman Terrace, Kentish Town, had for 14 years, and chiefly in the spring, been affected with indigestion and lowness of spirits, so that he was anxious to die and meditated self-destruction. He believed that he never should be well again; that a curse was upon all he did; that all around him were happy, but that everything he did was sure to turn out badly. He fancied that people were watching him and he had endless wretched fancies. He took immense quantities of all kinds of medicines in vain: and his teeth were frequently loose; through them, as he conceived. He applied at the Infirmary on February the 23rd, and was mesmerised by Mr. Gardiner. By March the 7th he was much improved in spirits and general health; on the 21st began to think he should be cured: and by the 16th of April he was quite well; and he put five shillings into the poor box of the Infirmary.

"The only other cure of a nervous affection that we will mention is very remarkable and was thought to be accompanied by ovarian disease. Mary Ann Lee, 40 years old, and living at No. 28, Norfolk Street, Middlesex Hospital, applied on the 8th of August, on account, she said, of ovarian tumor. About twelve years previously she noticed an enlargement of her body. She applied to at least as many as twenty medical men, but with no advantage. She continued to increase: suffering great discomfort, and sometimes felt as if she would be suffocated. One told her that she had internal ulcers; two pronounced her case to be ovarian dropsy, and declared that a surgical operation would be required. We could not find any distinct ovarian tumor, but there was clearly intense hysteria and enlargement of the abdomen, chiefly on the left side. She looked very ill and evidently suffered greatly. William Fisher mesmerised her, and by the 29th of the month she had improved in general health and was reduced in size. By the 8th of November she measured six inches less around the body. On February the 28th, was steadily advancing towards a cure and in excellent spirits. On the 18th of April she ailed nothing, and had all the appearance of health—after suffering in spite of medicine for upwards of *twelve years*. Whether there was ovarian disease or not, the medical members of the Committee have seen very great benefit from mesmerism in ovarian disease.

"We must trespass upon the time of the meeting to detail a remarkable cure of a disease of the shoulder, the same as what in other situations is called hip disease and white swelling of the knee. A little boy, named Joseph William

Stephens, 11 years old, living with his parents at No. 65, High Street, Marylebone, was sent on the 11th of March to Dr. Elliotson, by the Rev. Mr. Sandham, with a note requesting his advice for the little fellow. For three months the left shoulder had ached, and been so tender that not the slightest touch could be borne, and the lad was compelled to keep it constantly raised, because the weight and dragging of the arm were insupportable. This was thought to be only a bad habit by his family, and he was continually scolded as children often are when they are ill and not believed. But Mr. Sandham, on hearing the account and questioning the lad, determined at once to procure a medical opinion. He could not lie on that side for the tenderness. The disease had come on slowly without any known cause. He looked delicate. As the joint was a little misshapen, Dr. Elliotson examined it carefully and ascertained that there was no fracture or displacement; but he sent the boy to his neighbour Mr. Fergusson, Professor of Surgery in King's College, for the favour of that gentleman's opinion before he treated it as a chronic inflammation. Mr. Fergusson kindly wrote back that he could discover nothing beyond slow inflammation, and advised a small blister to be applied once a week; and cod liver to be administered, as the boy was thin. Since it seemed desirable to lessen the tenderness as soon as possible, Dr. Elliotson ordered four leeches to be applied immediately, and at the end of a week, before the blistering was begun; and he prescribed the cod liver oil. At the expiration of the week, four leeches were applied again, but there was no improvement. Being unwilling to subject the child to pain, and knowing how doubtful is the use of common means in these cases, Dr. Elliotson entreated the mother to take him to the Mesmeric Infirmary, near to which she lived, and to trust to mesmerism. Mr. Gardiner began to mesmerise the shoulder upon the 22nd of March. By the 30th, that is, after eight mesmerisations, the pain and tenderness were considerably relieved. On the 6th of April the pain was removed from the shoulder to the chest. On May the 13th he could move the shoulder in all directions, allow it to hang down, and bear it to be pressed upon and the arm to be moved in all directions by another person. The cod liver oil had been discontinued when the bottle in hand was finished. No medicine was taken, nor anything applied externally.

"This case is both instructive and beautiful. It exemplifies the fact, that mesmerism is useful in other than nervous affections, and cures inflammation: and it exhibits the cure of a disease which threatened to produce devastation of the

shoulder joint, suppuration, exfoliation, and all the sad results of scrofulous disease of joints. After the cure, Dr. Elliotson sent the patient to Mr. Fergusson, who kindly wrote back, that it was 'indeed highly gratifying to see such a favourable change in a case which looked so alarming.' The cure was in truth rapid; and, if ordinary means had succeeded, their operation would have been very slow, and the boy's health perhaps impaired.

"Besides cures, striking for their rapidity or for their accomplishment after ordinary measures, long carried on, and perhaps disagreeable and painful, had failed, we have witnessed in the Infirmary a surgical operation, which in ordinary circumstances is agonizing, performed without the slightest pain and recovered from as if nothing had been gone through. Mr. Tubbs, a surgeon in Cambridgeshire, one of our earliest and very liberal subscribers, who for many years has practised mesmerism even to his own serious injury, and honestly published in *The Zoist* astonishing cures,—wrote up to say that he was about to remove a female breast in the mesmeric state of insensibility to pain, and would perform the operation in our Infirmary, if we were agreeable to it. As so public a proof of the power and utility of mesmerism in the metropolis, where no hospital surgeon has ever operated under mesmerism or employed it, seemed likely to produce a decided conviction in the minds of society at large, and through this conviction to improve the conduct of the medical profession, we availed ourselves of Mr. Tubbs's courageous offer, and the operation was performed in the presence of those members of the Committee who attend regularly, and of two medical gentlemen invited, and of a friend of Mr. Amor, who are not on our Committee. Never was success more complete. The effect upon the public mind in this country and abroad has fulfilled our hopes: and the conviction of the truth of mesmerism has made a gigantic stride. Yet the fact was no more than had been done in some hundreds of cases during the last five and twenty, and especially the last ten, years: and full accounts of these cases have been regularly published in *The Zoist* and in other mesmeric works. But the medical profession have up to this moment sternly refused to open these books, or acknowledge the existence of their contents. A work by Dr. Esdaile, containing the most astounding relations of very numerous and terrific operations performed successfully by him at Calcutta publicly, without pain or the knowledge of the patient, lies as waste paper on the pub-

lisher's shelves, although almost any of those formidable operations, if performed by Sir Benjamin Brodie, Sir Astley Cooper, Mr. Liston, or other popular surgeons, even with pain, and the severest pain, would have been trumpeted in the medical journals all over the land. What makes this the more disgraceful to the medical profession is that so numerous are the deaths from chloroform (to say nothing of the few or more temporary ill effects) that the editor of the *Medical Times* wrote even in last November, 'These recent deaths should teach us to continue researches for some anæsthetic agent which may confer upon mankind all the advantages derivable from chloroform without its dangers.'\*

"But the good time is now coming: and the noble examples of Dr. Esdaile and Mr. Tubbs will have their effect even in the lifetime of those gentlemen.

"Our change of residence interfered lamentably during a part of the last twelvemonths with our proceedings: lessening the number of our patients, of our visitors, and of our new subscribers. But we never before were so well circumstanced as at present in any respect—situation, administration, or public consideration: and we trust that we shall assist powerfully in accomplishing an universal and complete recognition of the incalculable blessings which mesmerism can bestow. We have no desire to depreciate the value of well-established medicines or methods of treatment. In private those of us belonging to the medical profession employ them fully. But we know that numerous diseases are incurable by ordinary measures, though invariably repeated in such diseases without a shadow of hope: we know that ordinary measures hourly fail in diseases which really are more or less amenable to treatment: and we know that many of our most useful means are attended by inconvenience or even great annoyance and suffering. On the other hand, we know that mesmerism will cure some diseases in which all other means fail: that it will generally coöperate with established means and render cures more easy: that it will cure some diseases quite as well as ordinary measures, and with this advantage, that it neither annoys nor torments, and that it is perfectly safe and harmless. It makes an approach to an universal remedy: for it soothes and strengthens, and powerfully and pleasantly assists nature in her efforts to throw off disease. We wish to see it employed in almost every case, whatever other suitable measures may be (and very properly) adopted. If mothers habitually mesmerised their

---

\* See above, p. 140.—*Zoist*.

children when ill, great good would be the result. It is equally adapted for local and for general use. But it requires to be performed seriously, calmly, silently, slowly, regularly, and perseveringly.

"Those who cannot procure mesmerism in their family or by friends, and who cannot afford the expense of a professional mesmeriser, are mesmerised in private rooms at the Infirmary for five shillings a week : and all who may wish to learn to mesmerise are welcome to be taught gratuitously, if they bring good certificates of respectability and engage to attend regularly.

"We will not trouble the Meeting with the details of our finances : a statement lies upon the table, and will be printed with the report of the Meeting.

"We earnestly entreat our friends to procure us all the donors and subscribers whom they can, and to point out to those subscribers who are in arrear the great importance and duty of paying their subscriptions regularly.

"The accounts have been very kindly and carefully audited by Mr. THEODOSIUS PURLAND and Mr. JAMES SALMON" (their statement will be found at p. 195).

The following resolutions were moved, seconded, and carried unanimously.

THOMAS COLLEY GRATTAN, Esq., moved, and ASHURST MAJENDIE, Esq., F.R.S., seconded,—*"That the Report be received and adopted."*

GEORGE S. NOTTAGE, Esq., moved, and the Rev. C. K. PAUL, of Eton College, seconded,—*"That T. A. Shaw, Esq., Theodosius Purland, Esq., Surgeon-dentist, of Mortimer Street, M. TATHAM, Esq., and FREDERICK CARR BEARD, Esq., Surgeon, of Welbeck Street, be elected members of the Committee in the room of Dr. Ashburner, Lieut.-Col. Topham, Capt. the Hon. W. F. Scarlett, who have not been able to attend more than once, and C. Underwood, Esq., resigned."*

The Rev. GEORGE SANDBY moved, and Lieut.-Colonel TOPHAM seconded,—*"That the manner in which the Infirmary is conducted, and the benefits derived from it, render it a highly valuable institution, deserving of the support of all who know the truth of mesmerism, or who have obtained relief for themselves or their friends through its aid."*

(In the course of his address Mr. Sandby remarked that it was lamentable to think what numbers there were who



knew the value of mesmerism, and yet shrank from joining their ranks. There was one class of persons whom he had often met; people of rank and intelligence, who inquired into the facts of mesmerism with interest, and were struck with admiration at its results, and went away, deeply and powerfully impressed, proclaiming at once their faith in its truth; but, meeting afterwards some medical friend, who asked with a sneer, can you really believe all this? were afraid to confess their convictions and speak their mind. These parties, therefore, declined to join the society from cowardice of heart and want of moral courage: they made a pope of their apothecary,—adopting his dicta as infallible, though in their innermost feelings they knew that he was wrong. He was ashamed of such social poltroonery. There was a second class still worse than the first. People of property and distinction who had themselves been benefited by mesmerism; who had seen members of their own family cured by its aid; and who therefore publicly acknowledged its truth, and spoke out about its power. Why did not they unite in assisting the Infirmary? Their refusal did not arise from moral cowardice, as in the former instances, but from some niggardly feelings: they had been benefited themselves,—but from too great a love of money declined to help their poorer brethren by subscribing to our Institution, through the means of which what had already been done to themselves might now be done to others. There was a third class, still worse than the other two. Those who had promised us help, and put down their names as subscribers; and on the faith of whose word we had embarked in our undertaking and incurred considerable expense, but who now fell back from their pledges, and left us to encounter all the difficulty and the risk. He was sorry, and he was ashamed, to refer to such things, but the truth had better be mentioned and no facts kept back. Yet, if this was the unworthy neglect and desertion which the Infirmary received from so many of whom better things might be expected, it was delightful to state that there was a hearty and truth-loving support from an increasing number of sincere friends. For many who lived at a distance in the country,—and whose pecuniary means were limited,—medical men, too, who had to encounter the opposing scorn of professional brethren, had cheerfully assisted with us in upholding the good cause and in subscribing towards its support. With the help of such cordial, honest and admirable friends, he had no fear but that the Institution would flourish: and that many, who now held aloof, would soon be compelled by the force of public opinion

to lend their aid. Mr. Sandby concluded by calling upon all the friends of mesmerism to render their best support to the Infirmary.)

Capt. HUDSON moved, and T. A. SHAW, Esq., seconded,—“That the progress of mesmerism in different parts of the kingdom continues to be most satisfactory, and offers every encouragement to its friends to persevere in its support.”

(Capt. Hudson is the active and successful apostle of mesmerism in the north of England, and some of the cures which he related will be found in the next article. His speech was full of energy and ability, and made a great impression.)

W. J. TUBBS, Esq., moved a vote of thanks to the Chairman.

(Great interest was excited by the appearance of the operator in the case of painless removal of a breast.)

#### *Note by The Zoist.*

An anonymous lady has written to us expressing her astonishment that the existence of the Ladies' Committee was not communicated to the General Meeting in the Report. Why is she astonished? The President, Vice-Presidents, and Treasurer were not alluded to. The world was told last year and the year before that there is a Ladies' Committee, and the fact is universally known. This Committee is mentioned on the first page of all the reports; and in the two last reports was declared to meet weekly, and one of its members to visit daily. The names of all the members of it are always printed, like those of the Gentlemen's Committee, on the second page. Changes in the latter Committee are always announced, for one-third vacate their office annually: but each lady continues in office as long as she pleases, and is not subjected to re-election.

Our anonymous fair friend also regrets that the public was not informed that the Institution has a *resident* Matron. But the public was told so last year, and there stands the *important* fact in the Report published in *The Zoist* of last July, p. 205. And after all, is it not amusing to think the matter worth any notice! For there are in the house neither patients nor mesmerisers before ten o'clock, nor after four o'clock, when all mesmerism is over: and there is no servant kept. The grown-up daughters of the Secretary reside with him in the house (see above, p. 182).

Some ladies on the Committee will smile at our correspondent, if she advises them to remonstrate with the Gentlemen's Committee on these points.

We are happy to hear from her that she thinks it probable that the member of the Ladies' Committee, who is said to have stopped the Secretary when he was very properly preparing, as a matter of course, to send out the boxes again (see p. 183), will make good the loss which the Charity has thus sustained, of at least £17:5:6½. The contents last year were £27:13:3: this year they are only £10:7:8½.

## Dr.

*The Treasurer in account with the London Mesmeric Infirmary.*

Cr.

1853.		£	s.	d.
June 6th.	To Balance at Union Bank .....	347	7	9
1854.				
June 7th.	To Annual Subscriptions .....	198	3	0
	Donations .....	74	0	6
	Sale of Crystals .....	1	2	6
	Donations per Boxes in Hall    3   13   1½			
	Ditto Patients' Room ..... 0   18   1½			
	Ditto Ladies' penny collect- ing ditto .....	5   16   5½		
		<hr/>	10	7   8
	Rents per Mr. Baume's gift .....	33	7	6
	Payments by paying-patients .....	45	10	0
	Interest:—			
	On Exchequer Bills ..... 10   7   7			
	Per Bankers .....	2   17   7		
		<hr/>	13	5   2
	Valuation of Fixtures, Fitzroy Square ....	6	6	0
		<hr/>	£729	10   1

1854.		£	s.	d.
June 7th.	By Salaries of Secretary and Mesmerisers ..	295	9	1
	Rent .....	115	10	9
	Rates and Taxes .....	20	0	8
	Expenses of Removal, Fittings, House			
	Expenses, including Painting, &c. ..	50	15	3
	Stationery, Printing, and Advertisements	27	16	9
	Law Expenses on Lease, including £130			
	premium for new house .....	136	3	2
	Furniture, including a bill of £7 7s. for			
	Blinds, &c., at Fitzroy Square .....	24	11	1
	Insurance per Mr. Baume and others on			
	£1000 .....	2	5	0
	Surgeons' journeys, and other expenses			
	attending the operation on Mrs. Flower-			
	day's breast .....	8	9	8
	Balance at Union Bank .....	48	8	8
		<u>£729</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>

*Statement of Accounts.*

1854.		
June 7th,	To Balance at Union Bank .....	48 8 8
	Five Exchequer Bills .....	506 9 11

THEODOSIUS PURLAND, }  
JAMES SALMON, } *Auditors.*

VI. *Relief given and cures effected in Palsy, Weakness of Knees, Contraction of a Foot and of a Leg, Deafness, Head-ache, Rheumatism, Shaking Palsy, Debility, Palsy, Spinal Affection, and Delirium*, by Capt. Hudson during his visit to Sheffield the last few months.

"The *British and Foreign* died a natural death. The *Medico-Chirurgical* has also expired. The *Medical Gazette*, whose special mission it was to crush ourselves, died of dulness and debility: the *Medical Times* of stupidity and infamy. A hybrid spectral illusion, commemorating the joint names of these two departed journals, and putting on as its only hope, our outward form and semblance, is all that now remains."—*LANCET*. Editorial Article, January 1st, 1854, on its rivals in abuse of mesmerism.

#### *Palsy.*

MARY ANN Millington, of Furnival Street, who had been subject to fits, and was thrice seized with paralysis, which gradually affected her mental as well as physical powers, has been restored: "has perfect command of her arms and legs: and her right leg and side, which were contracted, are all right now, and she can walk with ease and freedom."

#### *Weakness of Knees.*

Joseph Martin, 153, Trafalgar Street, "suffered from weakness in the knees, which knocked together. Can now walk quite firmly."

#### *Contraction of a Foot.*

Mrs. Wood, of Shipley, belonging to the Society of Friends, had had "a contraction in her foot, and had suffered much pain for more than seven years; had been attended by many skilful medical men, and was an out-patient at the Huddersfield Infirmary, until the foot became so painful that she could neither walk on it nor bear it on the ground, and amputation was recommended." Can now walk with a stick and expects soon to throw that aside. "She was able to put her foot to the ground the first time the Captain mesmerised her."

#### *Deafness.*

Amelia Hutton, of Milton Street, "had long suffered from deafness, but is now able to hear quickly."

#### *Contraction of Leg.*

Isabella Lee, of 11, Low Street, Park, "when a little girl, had a fall which injured her knee and contracted her leg more than four inches. Since she has been mesmerised the contraction is reduced, and she can now set her foot flat on the ground, bearing the whole weight of her body on that one leg: a thing which she had not done for more than twenty-four years."

*Pain of Head and Back.*

Caroline Brookfield, 45, Green Lane, "had been afflicted twelve years with severe pain in her head and back—had been under some medical men, and three times in the Sheffield Infirmary—but was no better till mesmerised by Capt. Hudson. After three weeks of treatment she was cured."

*Rheumatism.*

P. Hepworth, of Ecclesall, near Sheffield, previously to being mesmerised by Capt. Hudson, "suffered from weak and swollen knees—in 1844 was an out-patient at the Sheffield Infirmary six months, but received no benefit—had had advice of several eminent physicians—had been under the homœopathic treatment; but still was no better. She is now able to kneel, which she had not done for ten years—has but little pain and expects to receive further benefit."

*Rheumatism.*

George Allen, infant-school-master, Park, Sheffield, "had suffered for above six years in his left hand from swollen wrist and tied knuckles, brought on by rheumatic pains. After being mesmerised by Capt. Hudson was set at liberty and freed from pain."

*Shaking Palsy.*

John England, of Wellington Street, "has been cured by Capt. Hudson, of shaking of the hand, having been affected about five years."

*Rheumatism.*

John Chapman, Fir View, "has received a cure of rheumatism in his ankle, of twelve months' standing, at the hands of Capt. Hudson."

*Palsy.*

Jane Peacock, 51, Victoria Street, "became paralyzed in her hands in 1846. One medical man was of opinion that the cause was a spinal affection, a second that it was a nervous disorder, and a third that it was rheumatism—had had many blisters and leeches—was attended by several medical gentlemen at Manchester, and had tried sea air and many other remedies in vain. Since she has been under Capt. Hudson's care her fingers have become moveable, and her hands and arms have received strength and plumpness, so that she can now open her hands, and hopes that in a short time she will have the full use of them."

*Spinal affection.*

William Hawbey, of Arundel Street, "who for fourteen

years had received sick pay from the Masons' Sick Society, on account of a spinal disease, is now restored by Capt. Hudson, and has ceased to receive pay from the society by order of the committee."

*Palsy.*

"Joseph Dickenson was afflicted three years with paralysis in his left side, and was deranged in his mind—is now cured, and able to work."

*Debility.*

"Sophia Brown, of High Flats, had been afflicted with debility and confined to her house and bed for nine years: and one of her medical attendants, after examining her, said that if they lifted her off the bed she would immediately die. She can now get up, and has been taken out in a gig."

*Rheumatism.*

"Joseph Laycock, of Gate Field, had suffered severely for twelve months from rheumatism—had had advice from different medical men, but all things were of no effect till he applied to Capt. Hudson. Since then he has been able to walk with perfect ease without his stick."

*Delirium.*

On Thursday, May 18th, W. S., of Sheffield, (who previously had been unwell,) began to shew signs of delirium, arising, it was thought, from too close application to business; he got worse during the night, and the next morning was in a high state of fever, frequently starting up in affright, and did not know any one about him, not even his own family; his friends called in a physician, who at once declared him to be in a brain fever, ordered twelve or fourteen leeches to his temples immediately, recommended two or three strong men to be got into his room, saying that they would be needed, as he would soon be raging mad; and after writing a prescription went away. As the doctor was leaving, Capt. Hudson, who had previously been requested to see him, entered the room, advanced cautiously to the bedside, made a few passes unperceived by the patient at first, and in about five minutes had him in a deep sleep, from which he awoke in about two and a half hours, calm and sufficiently composed to suffer the leeches to be applied: he rapidly recovered with four or five times mesmerising, and a few days in the country have restored him to perfect health, both of body and mind. It may be as well to state that only a little of the medicine ordered was given, as it evidently was not required. His family and friends beg to return their grateful thanks to Capt. Hudson, as having been the means, under Divine Pro-

vidence, of restoring their dear relative to health, and saving them the expense and inconvenience of a long and severe affliction.

E. Dickenson,

A. Walton.

"I have seen Mr. S——, and am happy to testify in Capt. Hudson's behalf, that the effect produced through him is most astonishing and gratifying. The case was a desperate one and the cure apparently most effectual."

J. F. Witty,

Incumbent of St. Matthew's, Sheffield.

VII. An account of "*Spiritualism*, by John W. Edmonds and George T. Dexter, M.D.: with an Appendix by Nathaniel P. Tallmadge, late U.S. senator and governor of Wisconsin. New York: Partridge and Brittan."

"We are so wise: we have women politicians, children metaphysicians: every silly fellow can square a circle, make perpetual motions, find the philosopher's stone, interpret apocalypse, make new theorems, a new system of the world, new logic, new philosophy, &c. *Nostra utique regio*, saith Petronius, *our country is so full of deified spirits, divine souls, that you may sooner find a god than a man amongst us*: we think so well of ourselves, and that is an ample testimony of much folly."—BURTON'S *Anatomy of Melancholy*, vol. i., p. 61.\*

THIS work by the celebrated Judge Edmonds and his friends is among the newest and most celebrated of that peculiar class of productions, to which the recent "rapping" movement in America has given birth. The greater part of the volume—a goodly octavo of 505 pages, is occupied with what purports to be communications from the spirits of Swedenborg and Bacon, delivered generally in Judge Edmonds's house, but through the instrumentality of Dr. Dexter as a writing medium. The supposed revelations of the Baron, who, in section first, enters somewhat abruptly on the scene, with the magniloquent announcement, "In the name of God I am Sweedenborg," (with the double e,) may be curtly described as a confused mass of maudlin mysticism, of which the simplest neophyte of the New Jerusalem Church would be ashamed to acknowledge the authorship. As to "Francis of Verulam," his condition is indeed most pitiable, for the utmost effort of his gigantic intellect, liberated from the thralldom of matter, and rejoicing in all the glorious expansiveness of the spirit-sphere, eventuates simply in the production of scientifico-theological twaddle. His former depth

\* We have supplied this motto, as we do nearly all.—*Zoist*.

of thought and terseness of expression, his unapproachable grandeur of conception and pregnant brevity of style, have sunk into the watery platitudes and vapoury commonplaces of a vulgar stump-orator on Yankee progress. Andrew Jackson Davis is readable, and Adin Ballou is amusing, but Judge Edmonds, Governor Tallmadge, and Dr. Dexter are only wearisome. Not only have they contrived to most outrageously caricature the two distinguished men whose supposed spirits sustain the principal interlocutors and dissertationists throughout the work, but, what is certainly not a little extraordinary, these presumed spiritual communications, purporting to come from such exalted supernal sources, and delivered through the instrumentality of such dignified terrestrial agents, are, either as literary essays or philosophic dissertations, inferior both in style and matter to the already published productions of many other media of far less notability and pretension. Indeed, weakness amounting to pitiable inaptitude and confusion, which sets every attempt at logical sequence in the development of ideas at defiance, characterizes nearly every page of this wretched conglomeration of shallow philosophy and contradictory theology. With God, heaven, and man in his temporal and eternal relationships, as the subject-matter of their disquisitions, there is, with the exception of the Judge's own analogical visions, scarcely a true poetical idea in the whole volume. How, on such sublime and exalted topics as God's paternity and man's immortality, well-bred and highly-educated individuals, like those whose names grace the title-page of this strange book, could contrive to be so intolerably prosy, is in itself a marvel not the least difficult of solution. It would seem that, utterly devoid of invention, with the idealistic and creative powers of the human mind at the lowest possible ebb, a matter-of-fact transference of the dull routine of ordinary life in time to the spheres of eternity was all which their utmost efforts at conception, in reference to man's ulterior destiny, could accomplish. In this desperate endeavour to realize the detail of existence "beyond the veil," the convulsive throes of their incompetent imaginations end only in birthing the miserably ridiculous. Here, for instance, is a specimen of spirit-life supposed to be described by Swedenborg:—"We occupy earth tangible, positive earth—as much as your earth; but the advanced state of both spirit and locality renders it unnecessary for us to labour much to obtain food for the support of our bodies. Then again the earth brings forth spontaneously most of the food required for our bodies. And I would say, the advanced spirits do not require as much food



as those who are below them." A little farther on he says: "We have trees—real trees and flowers, and mountains and rivers, and rocks, and everything material." Of some spirits not so favourably circumstanced as the above, we are told: "They do not sing, write, or enjoy life in any way, except the delight they may have in tormenting those around. They toil for sustenance, and as their land is sandy and no sunlight, there must be great labour to enable the earth to bring forth enough to sustain them." Alas! say we, for men not "born poets," who nevertheless experience, as in the present instance, an irresistible vocation to the prophetic office: for their desperately spasmodic efforts after the sublime end only in the absurd. Woe to him who, mistaking the artificial exaltation of a stilt for the true growth of gigantic stature, fancies his display of the grotesque to be commanding, and thus in place of inspiring awe evokes only contempt.

Of course, in a work of such extent, and on such subjects, composed too by men, who, whatever may be their special weakness on this point, are undoubtedly gentlemen and scholars, some passages of a very superior character occasionally intervene, and break the dull monotony of the commonplace by the rare scintillation of a thought somewhat beyond the average. But, even in these more favourable paragraphs, the reader at all acquainted with either Swedenborgian or rapping literature cannot fail to detect the source of these borrowed and oftentimes distorted conceptions. In the utter absence of all originality and force, in the total want of invigorating freshness and power, we have seldom read a volume which more thoroughly disappointed us: for, from the prestige of its authors, and the expectations excited by previous announcements of the forthcoming work, we had prepared ourselves for some rather startling display of extatic exaltation. We anticipated the pleasure of witnessing minds, naturally powerful, and assisted by all the aids of education and experience, developing their usually latent resources under the excitement of at least partial clairvoyance. But, in place of this, we are treated only with the ordinary routine of rapping communications, in which the mediocre individuality of the medium, Dr. Dexter, is everywhere unmistakeably apparent.

In addition to several hundred pages of such solemn nonsense and pretentious trash, as we have just described, where blasphemy as an effect, with insanity as a cause, meet one at every step, there is an introduction by the Judge and another by Dr. Dexter, giving an account of their individual experiences, and consequently affording us a glimpse of the processes

by which they became media. By this it appears they were both inducted by visiting circles, and consequently may be placed in the category of sympathetic extatics. We could have wished more from the Judge and less from the Doctor: but the spirits we suppose will select their own vehicles, and from their decision there is no appeal. The Judge's Visions have a slight dash of Bunyan in them, and if selected and collected might make perhaps an endurable pamphlet. There is also an appendix by Governor Tallmadge, whom we have introduced to the reader's notice in our former paper on the rappings,\* in which are letters and some other communications from artists, from which it appears that some of the gentle brethren of the easel have become media; and, like our own gifted but unfortunate Blake, have commenced drawing from their own visions. One of these sketches accompanies the present volume, and we apprehend that such productions will constitute about the most endurable things to which the present phase of popular superstition will give birth.

We perceive that Mr. Edmonds's late title of "Judge" has been omitted from the title-page of this work on spiritualism. And we also find from the *Spiritual Telegraph*, and other periodicals of the rapping body, that this distinguished functionary has deemed it expedient to vacate his exalted official position. On this fact, a great cry of "persecution," has of course been raised by his co-believers, who declare that he has been virtually deprived of his Judgeship in consequence of his public profession of the rapping faith and his additional avowal of personal mediumship. But we really do not wonder that a great law-officer of the state, in whose hands the lives, fortunes, and reputations of his fellow-citizens, are placed, in full dependence not only on his integrity, but also his soundness of judgment, should be deemed partially unqualified for his very onerous and responsible duties, when, as in the case under consideration, he fancies that he has, ever and anon, interviews with and communications from the spirits of those wretched criminals who have been executed under his sentence. The following scene is, we apprehend, sufficient under this point, and will amply justify the more rational portion of the American public in their determination to relieve the Hon. Mr. Edmonds of his judicial labours.

After considerable difficulty in getting a refractory spirit to tell his name, the Judge at last said—

---

\* See *Zoist* for April, pp. 5-7.

"*Judge.*—'It is in the name of God I demand it. It (the spirit in the body of the medium) looked at me, and then, after something of a pause, said, in a gentle voice,'—

"*Spirit.*—'Yes; I must tell my name.'

"*Judge.*—'Well, what is it?'

"*Spirit.*—'Tom Jones.'

"*Judge.*—'You are fooling me, I want your true name, not a fictitious one.'

"*Spirit.*—'My true name, is Jones.'

"*Judge.*—'Are you then the spirit of one who was tried before me for murder, was condemned to death by me, and executed?'

"*Spirit.*—'Yes; I am he, Judge: Oh! forgive me, forgive me!'"

And so this strange colloquy proceeds through two additional pages. Now, to say nothing of the want of taste and feeling evinced in publishing such a scene, let us only glance at it in its relation to Mr. Edmonds's presumed qualification for the efficient discharge of his most important duties. Here is a high legal functionary, liable to what he supposes visitations, not only from the dead in general, but from those to whose coerced departure from this sublunary sphere he was mainly instrumental. Now let us conceive him on the eve of another court day, when a second case of murder or other capital crime is to be tried before him, receiving one of these spiritual visitations, with a broad hint from the departed as to the guilt or innocence of the prisoner. Where, let us ask, would then be his usual acuteness in sifting evidences, his impartiality in addressing the jury, or his unbiassed sense of justice in passing the sentence? Considering the influence which a judge must exercise over the fate of the criminals, the results to the latter, in case the visions of the presiding chief magistrate should chance to have been unfavourable, are frightful to contemplate. As to Dr. Dexter, his patients may perhaps still retain their confidence in his prescriptions: but we must confess to some fears lest a sly suggestion from the higher powers should some day interfere with either his diagnosis or his treatment. As to *ex-governor* Tallmadge, this venerable gentleman, having altogether surceased from his exalted duties, has doubtless a prescriptive right to indulge himself in such lucubrations as may most effectively conduce to the comfort of his declining years. Perhaps, however, were he once more to seek a seat in the high council of his nation, he might find that a belief in habitual spiritual intercourse would not be considered by electors gene-

rally as the most favourable of his qualifications for their suffrages.

Altogether this work has only confirmed us in the estimate we had previously formed of the limited scientific knowledge, the superficial thought, and feeble imagination of the rappists. It is true they dilate on "progress" with the intensity and perseverance of monomaniacs. But, has it never occurred to them that, in certain exceptional cases, whether of individuals, sects, or nations, there may be *regress*? If not, we think the sooner they study the laws of imitation, misapprehension, and other phenomena of mental enfeeblement, the better. This book, which some of their most distinguished converts have given to the world, would, but for their names, and the blind zeal of their party, have been at once recognized for what it is,—a second-hand echo of works previously published on the same subject,—themselves but a ridiculous compound of the misapprehended spiritualism of Swedenborg and the misapplied principles of the *Vestiges*.

We cannot indeed conclude this short notice of a volume, remarkable alike for the social distinction of its authors, and the mediocre character of its contents; for the pomposity of its pretensions, and the futility of its results; without here again specially remarking, as in our former article on the rappings, on the palpable ignorance of the American spiritualists in reference to all the higher phenomena of mesmerism. This Judge Edmonds tells us in his Introduction. "Much to my surprise, I received a communication pointed directly to two trains of thought in my mind,—one that had been there for some twenty-five years, and another that had been there some two or three months, but neither of which had I ever uttered, or even hinted at, to mortal man or woman." He says, farther on, "I must confess this staggered me: and, the more I thought upon it, the more inexplicable it seemed. I procured books on mesmerism, to see if I could find a solution, but still the fact—the fact was there!" Aye, to be sure it was,—a fact in thought-reading, with which every competent mesmerist in England is familiar, either by personal experience or by reading. A fact which, however beautiful and interesting as a natural phenomenon, has, it seems, been tortured by ignorance into the service of superstition; and thus, instead of proving an aid to enlightenment, has been, as far as possible, converted into an obstacle to the progress of the human mind. As to the books which the learned jurist consulted, as they are not named, we of course cannot pretend to estimate their character. But, judging by

the utter darkness in which they left the mind of the distinguished student, we should suppose they must have been more remarkable for bulk than quality, and, as Sheridan said of a certain author, were less luminous than voluminous! The *fact*, as the learned Judge is fond of such "stubborn things," is simply this,—that he and Governor Tallmadge became involved in the more recondite results of clairvoyance, while their minds were utterly unprepared for it; and hence they were "staggered," where better informed persons would have been simply interested. We have heard much of the scholastic attainments of the accomplished authors of the work before us, and we doubted not that in this respect report has spoken truly. But Latin and Greek, though once supposed to be more than a match for Satan when incarnated in some wretched demoniac, are now found to be perfectly incompetent to the solution of the simplest fact in nature. Thus even in England we have the melancholy example of Rev. B.B.AA. and M.M.AA. anathematizing investigations into the laws of God's universe, as processes for consulting the devil. The spirituality of the rappers, and the diablerie of the ultra-orthodox, are each but the lamentable and pitiable result of ignorance; and this, too, ignorance of that much despised but most glorious science, MESMERISM.

J. W. JACKSON.

Edinburgh, June, 1854.

---

VIII. *Cures effected by Mr. George Plowman, a Missionary—Neuralgia, Rheumatism, Locked-jaw, Tooth-ache, Ring-worm, Bad Leg, Inflamed Breast, Blindness, and Debility.* Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

"There is every reason to believe that homœopathsists, allopathsists\*, MESMERISTS, mountebanks, extortioners, *et id genus omne*, are at present increasing in numbers, and the public, singularly deficient in this matter in judgment and discrimination, are preyed upon on all sides, and cheated and plundered to an alarming extent."—MR. WAKLEY, *Lancet*, October 15, 1853.

"The MESMERIC DELUSION was at its height in France, in 1788."—*Ibid.*, December 17, 1853.

16 Buccleugh Street, Edinburgh,

Dr. Elliotson.

May 27th, 1854.

DEAR Sir,—As I have derived much instruction and encouragement from reading various accounts of cures given in

---

\* Why Mr. Wakley where are your brains? All medical men who are not homœopathsists are allopathsists. Old Monsieur Jourdain, in the *Bourgeois Gentil-homme*, did not know that what is not poetry is prose: and you do not know that

*The Zoist*, would you do me the favour to find a place in its most valuable pages for the following cases of cures effected by the application of mesmerism. I should like to have them inserted for two reasons :—First, in the hope that it may be the means of leading some of my brethren and fellow-labourers in the Gospel, whose daily work brings them into contact with the diseased, to think seriously of the advantage of mesmerism to the sick poor, who, it may be, have not the means of employing other medical aid, and who on that account must be often very ill attended, and when a few passes might entirely free the sufferer from all pain. I am aware that in many instances there is a feeling amongst the patrons and managers of religious institutions, that, if their agents were to spend their time in paying attention to the body, their minds would become secularized and unfitted for attending to the higher and nobler work of healing the soul. As an individual, I have no sympathy with any such idea. The religion that ignores the body whilst it manifests great love and zeal for the soul is at best but pure sentimentalism,—a system founded in ignorance,—one not built on the truth. "The servant is not greater than his Lord," who, although He was engaged during His ministry on earth in the great and noble work of reconciling men unto God, did not, on account of that, forget to do good to the body; nay, the body often received His first attention. He cured the body, that He might the more easily get at the mind. Secondly, To let your readers know that in Edinburgh there is something being done to alleviate suffering. I may mention that I am a member of the Scottish Curative Mesmeric Association. My attention was at first called to study this subject by hearing the Messrs. Davey and Jackson lecture on it. I was led from that to join their classes, where I received the necessary instructions, for the treatment of various kinds of disease. It is now about twelve months since I began to practise mesmerism for the cure of disease, during which time I have applied it to above one hundred patients, the greater portion of whom have been cured, and all, with the exception of three or four, have derived great benefit from it. I have employed it in all kinds of disease where I had an opportunity of doing so.

*Neuralgia.*

Miss F. N——, Mirth Street, Edinburgh, had been, for

---

all givers of medicines who are not homœopathists are allopathists, and therefore say that the public is preyed upon, cheated, and plundered by the ordinary members of the medical profession.—*Zoist*.

upwards of twenty years, subject to attacks of most excruciating pains in the stomach. She had passed through the hands of many of the medical men in this city, without deriving any benefit. The only relief she obtained when these attacks came on her was from stretching herself at full length before a large fire. I offered to mesmerise her. At first she did not agree to this, but did so afterwards. I made passes all over the body, and excited Hope phreno-mesmerically. I also made local passes in contact over the seat of the pain, for the first six or eight sittings. Although taken away at the time, the pain returned with greater severity than before. Then it began to lessen in severity and frequency, until it entirely left her. Her general health and strength became very much improved under the treatment. I found the free use of mesmerised water to be of great service in this case.

*Locked-jaw.*

Widow I——, Old Newington House, Edinburgh. The jaw had been four days locked before I was called in. At the time I first saw her, she was rigid all over the body, and suffering from extreme pain, especially in the head. At the first sitting, the rigidity of the limbs and body was removed, and the pain in the head was much relieved. After the second sitting, she was able to drink a cup of tea, and eat a rice biscuit, although she had been without food for five days previously. I continued to mesmerise her twice a day for four or five days; and once a day for about a week longer; at the end of which time she was able to be out of bed and to masticate her food with perfect ease. All that medical skill could devise had been done for her before I was asked to see her. This cure, I may remark, was effected without the induction of sleep.

*Swollen Breast.*

Mrs. I. R——, Craighside House, Edinburgh, was suffering from a swollen breast, which gave her great pain. On a former occasion, she had had the same breast three times lanced for this disease. The breast was swollen to an enormous size, and was very hard. By two applications of mesmerism, this was entirely removed, and a complete cure effected. This lady fell into states of great perspiration. This patient was also cured of a Bealing throat.

*Debility and Blindness.*

Mrs. L——, Henry Street, Edinburgh, was afflicted with inflammation of the eyes about two years ago. Up to that time she enjoyed perfect health. She was bled, blistered, and drugged for the disease until she was reduced to a perfect

shadow. True, the inflammation was removed: but blindness and debility were given in its stead. At the time I was asked by a friend to see her she could not move herself in bed from weakness, and this was accompanied by shooting pains and severe head-ache. I mesmerised her once a week, for ten or twelve weeks. Now her health is quite good; she is free from all pain, her strength is daily improving, and her sight is so far restored that she can see to read large print on a bright and sunny day.

*Head-ache.*

E. P——, Berwick-on-Tweed. This young woman had been subject to severe head-aches for several years. She being in Edinburgh on a visit, I was introduced to her. At the time I saw her she was suffering great pain. I mesmerised her for a few minutes, and she was entirely relieved. I saw her several months after, and she had experienced no return of pain at that time.

*Rheumatism.*

Mr. Gardiner, Huddersfield, Leith, had been afflicted for several years with rheumatism. For two weeks he had been obliged to leave off work: could not lie in bed for pain: could not raise his arms, nor his right leg, but with great difficulty and pain. I mesmerised him for about twenty or twenty-five minutes, and sent him away free from all pain. To use his own words, "I feel like a boy of 16." He has had no attack of rheumatism since.

*Bad Leg.*

Widow B——, aged 68 years, East Adam Street, Edinburgh, had been suffering from a bad leg for about twenty years. In the autumn of each year, she was seized with strong inflammation, which confined her to her bed-room all the winter. Last autumn she was attacked as before, and was mesmerised. The inflammation was removed, and the ulcerations prevented. In the course of a few weeks, black spots on the leg, some of them of twenty years' standing, were greatly removed, and the natural colour restored. I found the use of the wet compress dipped in mesmerised water to be of much value in this case. She also drank mesmerised water very freely.

*Tooth-ache.*

Miss ——, No. 2 Hewit Place, Grange Lane, Edinburgh, had been suffering the most severe pain for days, arising from tooth-ache. She came to me in that state: in the course of



four or five minutes the pain was removed, and has not returned since.

*Ringworm.*

Miss E. S——, Meadow Place, Edinburgh, aged six years, had been suffering from ringworm on the head for three years. The best skill that could be had in the city was obtained in her case, but without effecting a cure. A very eminent medical man told her mother that she should not distress herself about the matter, informing her at the same time that her daughter would carry the disease to the grave with her. I was asked to mesmerise her. I did so; and in the course of three or four weeks, the head was completely cured. This child went into the mesmeric sleep. In this case also, mesmerised water was used to sponge with. Breathing through flannel over the diseased part I found to be of great service.

*Neuralgia in the Cheek.*

Mr. A. M——, South Clerk Street, Edinburgh, had been suffering the most excruciating pain for several days. When he came to me, he said, "I have been nearly mad; I am afraid that I shall land in Morningside Asylum." In less than half an hour the pain was taken away, and I am happy to say that it has not since found its way back.

*Neuralgia, with alleged Disease of the Liver.*

Mr. J. A——, No. 104 High Street, Edinburgh. For three years this patient had suffered great pain under the left breast, and right shoulder, which threw him into severe spasms, in which he lay sometimes as dead for hours. He was so much reduced in strength, as not to be able to walk except with great difficulty. The weakness of the left arm was such, that he was unable to bear the weight of his cane. This case required three months to complete the cure; although the pain was removed at the first sitting, it occasionally returned, though less severely, until it entirely disappeared. This patient now feels quite well. In personal appearance he is as fresh and vigorous as before he became diseased.

I might give many additional cases, but fear that I have already trespassed too much on your valuable space. If you think proper to forward the above cases, I shall feel obliged by your doing so, and, if not the whole, any portion you may think proper.

I remain, dear Sir, yours respectfully,  
GEORGE FLOWMAN, *Missionary.*

## OMISSIONS AND CORRECTIONS.

*Dispersion of a large abscess.*

In our account of Captain Hudson's cures we omitted one in which a large abscess was dispersed.

"Sir,—My son had an enormously large and painful swelling on his neck. He called in a surgeon, who advised that it should be lanced. By the aid of magnetism Capt. Hudson cured it after five applications, to the astonishment of the medical gentleman. I can bear testimony to the above statement.

"J. Hepworth,  
"Hunter's Row, near Sheffield."

In our last Number, p. 39, a case of epilepsy is recorded by Mr. B. B. Morrison, in which the mesmeriser is said to have been changed for one of only a few weeks experience; the patient and friends were told that this was dangerous and would end in death; the disease after being in abeyance to have returned in a most terrific manner; the patient become gloomy and almost insane, and found burnt to death in his bed. We have received the following letters upon the case:—

"To the Editors of *The Zoist*.

"Merton, Cullenswood, Dublin,  
"June 5th, 1854.

"Gentlemen,—My attention has just been called to an article which appeared in the last number of *The Zoist*, and which was forwarded to you by a Mr. Morrison of Dublin, relative to the case of the late Mr. Charles Kavanagh, of Borris, County Carlow. Now, as Mr. Kavanagh was a patient of mine at the time of his *accidental* death and is the party referred to by Mr. Morrison, it is obvious that a reply is essentially necessary. I regret extremely that, in consequence of my own copy of *The Zoist* having been lost even before I had opened it, my attention was not called to it for some time after, or I should at once have written to you. In reading over the article I find Mr. Morrison has not hesitated in making four statements, which I am *most positively able to contradict*.

"1st.—'That Mr. Kavanagh had been taken out of his hands, and placed under a mesmeriser who had had but a few weeks experience.'

"2nd.—'That the convulsions returned in a most terrific manner.'

"3rd.—'That gloom had overspread his countenance, and that he returned home almost insane.'

"4th.—'That he was on the next morning found in his bed-chamber burnt to death.'

"Now with regard to the 1st, I had had at the time some years' experience in using mesmerism as a curative agent, and with, thank God (as well known), unbounded success.

"2nd.—Lady Harriet Kavanagh's letter (a copy of which I

enclose you) will at once shew that her son was rapidly recovering, and the fits were hardly perceptible to the person who had been in constant attendance upon him.

"3rd.—That he was in the very best of spirits on his return home on the Saturday, (I having accompanied him down to Borris the same day on a visit,) looking forward as he was to the happy prospect before him in his marriage, which was to have taken place in another month.

"Lastly,—He was not found in his bed-chamber burnt to death : he was partly dressed on the Sunday morning when the accident occurred, and, finding his shirt had taken fire, he got into bed to extinguish it, but finding he had set the bed on fire, he got up, seized the water jug, extinguished the fire in his room completely, and then went into my room at the other end of the passage, where I found him sitting on the bed, of course greatly burnt, from the effects of which he did not die until Monday night. So much for Mr. Morrison's statements.

"Should Mr. Morrison make any further misstatements on this subject, I shall consider it my duty to publish the threatening letters he sent to poor Mr. Kavanagh.

"I am, Gentlemen, yours very truly,  
"FALCONER MILES."

*Lady Harriet Kavanagh's letter.*

"Dear Sir,—I cannot imagine where the report originated which you mention that I and the family of my poor son had ever said that we had not thought him better since you commenced treating his case, and it is indeed due to you that I shall give such a report a *positive* contradiction. My poor Charles had made such a decided progress toward a cure, that if it had been God's will to spare him, I consider that there was every reason to hope that he would soon have been perfectly cured: the attacks had not only diminished in frequency but still more in violence, and the last one he had before his fatal accident was so slight that his servant, who was in the room at the time, said it was hardly perceptible. But not only had his health improved, but his memory, his mind, and his powers of application were all returning to their former strength, and all the listlessness and inactivity which had been produced by the disease he laboured under were rapidly giving way. All his friends remarked the happy change, and our anticipations for him were all most cheering; but the Lord's will and ways are not as ours—a brighter and more complete happiness awaited him than this earth could have afforded, and it was the will of his Saviour that he should be with Him where He is, and, thank God, I can say it is well.

"Believe me, dear Sir, yours faithfully,  
"Borris House, April 5th." "H. KAVANAGH.

*More mischief from spirit fancies.*

Mr. Fradelle, whose striking case of insanity in a young woman from spirit table-turning fancies appeared in No. XLIV., p. 366,

informs us of another instance in which the friends of the mother of four young children in a street opening into Oxford Street have been compelled to remove her from her family on account of the same calamity. When she and her husband began to give themselves up to this folly, Dr. Elliotson in vain pointed out to them the nonsense of what they shewed him, many months ago; and since her removal from home Mr. Fradelle has in vain argued with the husband to convince him of his absurdities.

We know of a London mesmeriser who not only believes in these things but talks of them, and listens for raps, while mesmerising his patients; by which folly they are excited and his attention slackened—two grievous circumstances.

In our last, at p. 109, we said that we believed Mr. Swinton was once a medical officer in India. We are informed that this gentleman belongs to the Civil Service of the Honourable East India Company on the Bengal Establishment, and that when he left India upwards of twenty years ago he held the office of Chief Secretary to the Government.

---

#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

*Miracles and Science.* By Edward Strachey, author of *Hebrew Politics in the times of Sargon and Sennacherib*. London: 1854.

*The Peoples of Europe and the War in the East.* By J. W. Jackson, Esq. Edinburgh: 1854.

This work of our distinguished contributor deserves the perusal of every physiologist and politician.

*The British Journal of Homœopathy.* April. London.

*Phrenology, Psychology, and Pneumatology: or, the importance of training the whole being.* By an Introvisor. London: 1853.

*Discours Prononcé à l'issue d'une séance de Phénologie, du Docteur Costle, par F. Bret, Ministre du Saint Evangile.* Genève: 1854.

*Psychological Inquiries: in a series of essays intended to illustrate the mutual relations of the physical organization and the mental faculties.* London: 1854.

---

#### NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We regret that we have no room in the present Number for the communications of the Rev. M. R. Barrett, Senior Fellow of King's College, Cambridge, the Rev. C. Kegan Paul of Eton College, the Rev. L. Lewis of Bristol, Mr. Saunders of Clifton, Mr. Copern, Mr. Tubbs, Mr. Squires of Hills Court, Exeter, Mr. Barton of Woolwich, and the Rev. C. B. S.

Non-Wist is surely not right in taking it for granted that Mr. C. Hare Townshend is not aware of the article on Human Levity in No. XXXIX., p. 303, because he has not referred to it: nor was Mr. Townshend bound to know of it.

We return thanks to Mr. Janson for advertising our last Number in the *Western Times*. He also generously advertised Mr. Townshend's new work.

#### Errata in last Number.

p. 3, l. 6, for "the latter," read *the former*.

p. 107, l. 9, for "nor say that this was," read *nor said that it was*.

p. 108, l. 2, for "to act upon the system," read *to cut up the system*.